■ SUPER/D4

Super Komiks: Anne, Angel and wildlife conservation

■ NEWS/A2

Name private donors to US lobby firm, Gonzales urged

■ WORLD/A11, A10

Asia's richest woman wins battle for late hubby's empire

Bush pleads guilty for Katrina disarray, vows biggest rebuilding ever

3 drown in floods as rains, traffic jams torment Metro

THREE PEOPLE, TWO OF THEM CHILDREN, were feared drowned in floods up to five feet deep, hundreds of vehicles were trapped in massive traffic jams, and power was knocked out in some areas as heavy rains yesterday pounded Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

In several areas, specially in Muntinlupa, authorities used amphibious vehicles and rubber

3 DROWN/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

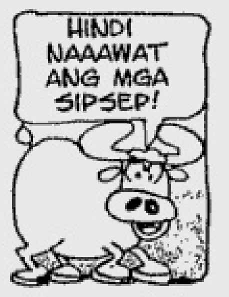
UN security cools ardor of GMA 'hakot' crowd

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEW YORK CITY—IF SHE can make it there, she'll make it anywhere.

A "hakot" (flown-in) crowd of congressmen, governors and mayors

UN SECURITY/ A7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Saturday, September 17, 2005 ★★ ~~74~~ 66 pages / 10 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 281 P18

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GMA open to delay VAT

Tax on oil, electricity can wait, Gloria tells New York forum

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEW YORK CITY (VIA PLDT)—In an apparent change of heart, President Macapagal-Arroyo indicated yesterday she was amenable to deferring the imposition of a 10-percent value-added tax on fuel and electricity—as long as this would be an initiative of Congress and not the Executive branch.

Sen. Manuel A. Roxas II and Rep. Joey Salceda have filed separate resolutions in Congress to delay the implementation on petroleum and power sales of the Expanded Value-Added Tax Law.

The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the law. Unless any of the opposers of the law files by Monday a motion for reconsideration of the court ruling, the temporary restraining order it issued on the VAT law would be deemed lifted and the law could take effect by then, court officials said yesterday.

"If the resolutions don't pass, then we will proceed with carrying out with the reforms and if the resolutions are passed, we will respect Congress' advice to us, but it does not take us away from our deficit reduction program ... We respect their wisdom," Ms Arroyo said in a forum with the Credit Suisse First Bank in New York.

Ms Arroyo had previously kept a firm stance on implementing the law, citing the importance of the funds to be generated by the VAT on fuel and power to solving the country's fiscal deficit.

GMA OPEN/ A7

EDWIN BACASMAS

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE for President Arroyo as she addresses the United Nations General Assembly on Friday (Manila time). She was one of 151 world leaders who delivered brief speeches at the world body, which is celebrating its 60th founding anniversary.

Health care to collapse in two years, medics warn

By Christian V. Esguerra

WARNING TO HEALTH AUTHORITIES: The Philippine health care system will collapse within the next two to three years as dismal working conditions continue to drive local doctors and nurses overseas.

The Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) yesterday made this disturbing prediction, pointing out that a total of 51,850 nurses left the country for greener pastures abroad from 2000 to 2003 alone.

This means that the country lost close to 13,000 nurses every year during that short period, according to Jossel Ebesate, AHW secretary general and nursing supervisor at the government-run Philippine General Hospital (PGH).

Worse, he said, more than 5,000 doctors joined the exodus to also work as nurses abroad from 2000 to 2004, and around 4,000 licensed physicians were now enrolled in nursing schools.

"This is disturbing," Ebesate told reporters after a forum in Quezon City. "If the trend continues, our health care system will collapse in the next two to three years."

Earlier, Dr. Bu Castro, president of the Philippine Medical Association, said about 30 percent of the country's 100,000 doctors had moved to North America.

Ebesate said opportunities for Filipino nurses were particularly plentiful in Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Unfortunately for the Philippines, a nurse's success abroad is a local hospital's suffering.

HEALTH/ A4

'Aragoncillo sent documents direct to RP officials'

By Luige A. del Puerto

DETAINED EX-POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL Ray Aquino yesterday denied having acted as a spy for any Filipino official during his stay in the United States.

Speaking through his lawyer, Felix Vinluan, Aquino admitted to having received e-mails from Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo, but said he did not "transmit" any document to any Filipino official.

He said he was simply "copy-furnished" by Aragoncillo, who had sent them directly to officials in the Philippines.

Aquino, who was arrested by the FBI last Sept. 10 along with Aragoncillo, also said he had never regarded the information he got as classified, and had no way of knowing that it was.

He said he was "never employed by any Philippine official, past or present, to gather classified information in the US."

Vinluan serves as Aquino's counsel in a case filed by US immigration authorities following his arrest last March 7 in New York for overstaying.

Aquino, a former aide of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's, entered the United States in July 2001, to escape prosecution for the 2000 murder of publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

He had been free on bail prior to his Sept. 10 arrest.

Aquino's detention hearing scheduled for Sept. 21 (Sept. 22 in Manila) at the US District Court of New Jersey has been postponed to an unspecified date.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Assistant US State Attorney Karl Buch disclosed that criminal justice lawyer Mark Berman, who had been assigned by the court to represent Aquino, requested the postponement.

"He (Berman) is not available on that date," Buch said, adding that the court had yet to schedule the next hearing.

Buch also refused to disclose the identities of the three Filipino officials who had supposedly received classified information from either Aquino or Aragoncillo. Both

ARAGONCILLO/ A4

A NEW YORK MOMENT for President Arroyo and her husband Mike who are reunited after more than a month of separation as he had exiled himself in the US so as not to add to the burdens of the presidency. They drive off into the night after guesting at a photo exhibit of presidential photographers at the Philippine Center on 5th Ave., New York. The President left for San Francisco yesterday to extend her visit by a day.

EDWIN BACASMAS

TRACING THE TRAIL OF THE TAPE

Where Garci was first heard to say hello

Editor's Note: Based on a series of interviews, the PDI i-Team pieced together the beginnings of the "Hello Garci" tapes that sparked a political crisis, the worst ever in the 4-year Arroyo administration. More than 3 months later, the crisis is far from over. The interviewees spoke on condition that they not be named for reasons that will become obvious as you read the series.

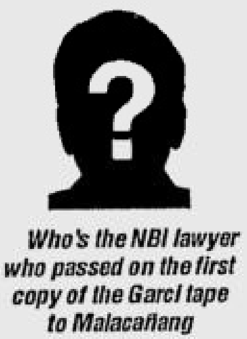
By Fe Zamora

(First of two parts)

INSIDE A ONE-STORY, WHITE BUILDING BESIDE a man-made lagoon at the inner recesses of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) compound, a 14-man team worked shifts engrossed in a highly confidential activity.

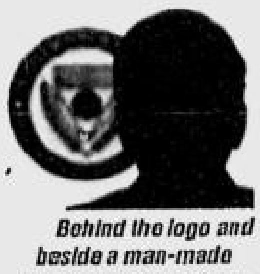
Working 24/7, team member T/Sgt. Vidal Doble watched over a computer, not bigger than an attaché case, as it intercepted the telephone calls and recorded the voice conversations of pre-

WHERE/ A6



Who's the NBI lawyer who passed on the first copy of the Garci tape to Malacañang on June 2, 2005?

An I-TEAM Report



Behind the logo and beside a man-made lagoon, a 14-man team worked shifts in a highly confidential activity.

Panic, confusion started at the Palace on June 3

By Gerry Lirio

IT WAS SUNDAY NIGHT, JUNE 5, AND PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye was agonizing over what to do.

On the phone, he asked a fellow Cabinet official if it would be right for him to announce that Malacañang obtained on June 3 a copy of a taped conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an official of the Commission on Elections.

"Do you think I should do this? Is this the right thing to do?" Bunye said.

Hours earlier that day, a group of Palace officials decided that he should make the announcement the following day. He was to say that there were two tapes—the original and a spliced one.

Which was which, it would be for him to tell.

The man at the other end of the line said: "It's up to you—if you can do it, if you want to do it."

Bunye hung up looking confused.

This was how three key government officials—two of whom later quit their posts—de-

PANIC/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central Luzon and western sections of Southern Luzon will have cloudy skies with rains. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/09/16/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

P50M FOR US LOBBY FIRM

Name donors, Gonzales dared

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—AN OPPOSITION LAWMAKER yesterday dared National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to identify the private donors who would pay for the services of the US law firm Venable LLP which the Philippine government hired to lobby for US funding for various projects, including Charter change.

"The Filipino people have the right to know who are these private donors? Are they drug lords? Are they jueteng lords? Are they businessmen with interests to protect? Was dirty money contributed by shady characters? What are their nationalities? Was the Anti-Money Laundering Law violated?" House Deputy Minority leader Rolex Suplico asked.

The Iloilo congressman said it was ridiculous for Gonzales to say he did not know the donors because his job was merely to sign the contract on behalf of the government.

Opposition lawmakers have sought a congressional inquiry upon learning that the Baltimore-based law firm Venable LLP would be paid $75,000 a month (or the equivalent of P4.2 million) by the cash-scrapped government.

They branded the contract as tantamount to meddling in the country's internal affairs.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago yesterday said the Senate will subpoena Gonzales to explain the highly irregular contract he entered into with Venable in behalf of the Philippine government.

Santiago said it is highly unusual for a National Security adviser to enter into such a contract since the task of the latter is merely to advise the President on policies relating to national security. "Since when has Charter change been an issue of national security,? she asked.

"If it were true that donors were really footing the bill, then all the better that we summon Secretary Gonzales to the Senate so he can reveal the identities of these donors," Santiago said.

Gonzales earlier said that Venable LPP, one of the top 100 law firms in the US, was hired primarily to lobby for US aid and funding for "mostly defense matters" and that the money for the Palace bid to amend the 1987 Constitution was just an added item.

Gonzales later claimed that private donations and not public funds would be used to pay for the services of Venable.

House Senior Deputy Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said a congressional inquiry was in the offing.

A constitutional expert said the Palace should take out the provisions in the Venable contract about the Philippines seeking US funding for revising the 1987 Constitution.

"It would be best to remove any wording in the contract in reference to US assistance, financial or otherwise in the revision of the Constitution," Dr. Jose Abueva said.

Abueva said it was "wrong" and "unnecessary" for the Philippine government to ask foreign assistance for something that is a "concern solely of the Filipino people."

"Our integrity, sovereignty and self-respect of our nation are involved here," Abueva said in a phone interview.

He said the government "should be able to pay for the cost of changing our Constitution." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Philip Tubeza and Norman Bordadora*

Foreign investors watching drive to amend RP Charter

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

TEVES: Land ownership, mining, media AFP

NEW YORK CITY (VIA PLDT)—Foreign investors are eagerly watching if President Macapagal-Arroyo's drive to amend the Constitution will ease restrictions on land ownership, exploitation of natural resources and operation of communication media.

This was revealed by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves following various meetings with corporate bosses and money managers in New York as part of Ms Arroyo's drive to win back foreign investors.

"(Foreign investors) are looking at how we can further improve the investment climate because they are comparing the Philippines with what is available in other countries," Teves said. "Other countries are fairly more reliable with respect to foreign investments in land, natural resources, media, and so on."

Ms Arroyo herself acknowledged that some provisions in the Constitution are "no longer conducive to the economic requirements of the 21st century" and told foreign businessmen that her next moves will be "to lobby constitutional reforms in the economic front."

But she said she would make no promises and would "leave it to (Congress) to do the timetable and work out a good constitutional change."

Teves said he and the country's other economic managers assured the businessmen that the Arroyo administration wants to leave economic rules in the hands of legislators instead of the Constitution. "Most countries that have gone through charter change found out that changes in economic policies could be done easily or faster through legislation."

The Constitution expressly prohibits foreign investors from owning land and media entities in the country. The Mining Act, whose constitutionality was upheld by the Supreme Court last year, allows foreign mining firms to buy equity in mining projects that are limited by the Constitution to Filipinos.

At the same press briefing, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary General Augusto Santos said he told the businessmen that the government was ready to bankroll Charter change moves starting next year. Although the government did not allocate funds for Charter change in the 2006 budget, he said these expenses could be debited against the funds of Congress or financed through a supplemental budget to be signed by the President.

GMA, Hu Jintao discuss more trade

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo and her China counterpart Hu Jintao discussed increased investments and energy security on the sidelines of the recent UN summit, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday.

Following the bilateral meeting between Ms Arroyo and Hu in New York, "we can expect more vigorous trade between the Philippines and China as well as more investments from China particularly in the area of mining," Romulo said in a statement.

The meeting "also provided an important opportunity for the President to discuss energy security particularly the continued rise in oil prices," Romulo added.

Ms Arroyo believes it is important to consult with major consumers of oil in order to pursue a "global solution to the oil issue," Romulo added.

In his visit here in April, Hu witnessed the signing of agreements for a $950-million Chinese nickel mining venture in the Philippines as well as $10 million in prospective investment in oil and gas exploration off the coast of Palawan. *AFP*

Legitimacy issue to bug Noli, says Loren

FORMER SEN. LOren Legarda yesterday said that the issue of "legitimacy" will hound Vice President Noli de Castro in the event he assumes the presidency once President Macapagal-Arroyo resigns or is removed from office.

Reacting to the findings of the Social Weather Stations on De Castro's "capability" to succeed as president, Legarda said that "political instability will continue if the next president is also perceived not to be legitimate because of massive cheating in the last elections."

Legarda, who ran for vice president in the 2004 elections, has filed an electoral protest against De Castro, claiming that massive electoral fraud had marred the elections.

Legarda also pointed out that in the SWS survey of Aug. 26-Sept. 5, only 26 percent of the respondents said that De Castro was "definitely capable." The rest of the respondents, comprising 74 percent, therefore had some "doubts" about his capability, she said.

20,000 jobs available on internet or by text message

By Jerome Aning

MORE THAN 20,000 JOBS IN 20 CATEgories are available to seekers, who only need to send a text message or log on to the government's job placement website.

The Department of Labor and Employment yesterday disseminated the top 20 job vacancy categories as registered by employers and overseas employment providers in Phil-Jobnet.

DOLE's Bureau of Local Employment reported that there were 20,374 vacancies available in the Phil-Jobnet, of which, 65 percent or 13,323 are in Metro Manila and other regions, and the remaining 35 percent or 7,051 are overseas.

According to BLE director Maria Luisa Gigette Imperial, the top five job vacancy categories are: customer service assistant (2,887), professional nurse (2,519), production machine operator (1,060), salesman (731), and administrative assistant (707).

The other 15 categories are: sales executive (635), technical support staff (308), cashier (275), merchandiser (274), waitress (233), waiter-general (230), accounting assistant (216), production worker (211), domestic helper (210), programmer and designer (202), sales representative (200), mechanical engineer (192), pastry chef (176), janitor (165) and building electrician (160).

There are more than 400 other job categories posted by employers and overseas employment providers available in the Phil-Jobnet system, Imperial said.

Interested job applicants may access the available vacancies in the Phil-Jobnet system simply by texting <TRABAHO> to 2376 (Globe) or 2476 (Smart), or accessing the information directly on the Internet at <www.phil-jobnet.dole.gov.ph>

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Gov't, MILF resume talks

THE GOVERNMENT AND MOro National Liberation Front (MILF) have resumed informal talks after a two-month break, rebel and government officials said yesterday.

Exploratory meetings on a proposed Muslim ancestral homeland in Mindanao had been stalled while President Macapagal-Arroyo battled a political crisis over allegations she cheated in last year's election.

"We're very optimistic that there will be a breakthrough in the negotiations," Von al Haq, an MILF leader, told Reuters.

"I hope the two sides can build on the success of these talks so we can move on to formal negotiations and eventually end the conflict that has brought misery to our people." Al Haq, who heads the rebels' panel monitoring a two-year-old ceasefire, said the talks were expected to focus on how a proposed Muslim homeland would be governed.

The current round of informal talks is expected to end late last night or early today, sources in the government and Muslim rebel panels said.

"There's a very bright prospect of reaching an agreement very soon," said a member of the government's ceasefire panel who declined to be identified. *Reuters*

Jueteng out? Credit Cruz, says whistleblower

By Christian V. Esguerra

THERE'S HARDLY ANY JUETENG OPERATIONS going on now, but neither President Macapagal-Arroyo nor antigambling czar Edward Hagedorn should get the credit for it, said jueteng whistleblower Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor.

Mayor, who is a former big-time jueteng operator in Bicol, said the credit should go to Archbishop Oscar Cruz, the antigambling crusader who led a high-profile campaign against the illegal numbers game last April.

"Hagedorn should be ashamed of himself. He didn't have to do anything anymore because jueteng was almost wiped out way before he entered the scene," Mayor said.

He confirmed Hagedorn's announcement that only five percent of jueteng operations were left. But he said that this happened soon after Cruz began parading witnesses at the Senate investigation into jueteng last May.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao on Thursday said jueteng had been reduced to a "bare minimum" since that time.

Cruz, who heads the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, yesterday said jueteng had been reduced to only 10 percent. What remained was the "guerrilla" type, so called because they jump from one area to another to avoid arrest, he said.

"Now, we have to guard against the possibility that jueteng would be substituted with other forms of gambling," he said, citing Bingo Combo and the Small Town Lottery (STL).

Hagedorn, the mayor of Puerto Prinsesa, has been trying to sell the idea of the SLT, a two-ball combination game initially introduced during the Aquino administration. He has all but admitted that it was a form of legalized jueteng as like the latter, bettors would choose a two-number combination, from 1 to 38.

Cruz earlier denounced a government plan to introduce the Bingo Combo, another legal variety of jueteng to be supervised by the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Mayor, who said he had been invited to set up a Bingo Combo franchise in Albay, gave the INQUIRER a copy of a seven-page Pagcor document titled "Procedural Guidelines for Bingo Combo Betting Station Operators."

He said Hagedorn was now dangling STL before local government executives because Bingo Combo has been blocked.

"STL is his way of appeasing mayors who lost huge sums in protection money since the jueteng scandal broke out. Hagedorn knows this and he's trying to make a fool out of Filipinos," he said.

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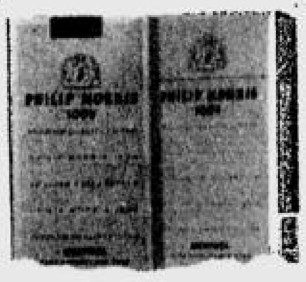

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4821 Series of 2005

'Aragoncillo sent documents ...

From page A1

men have been charged with espionage.

"I can't speak more than what I already said in the papers," Buch said.

He confirmed that Aquino was being held at the Passaic County Correctional in New Jersey, but was mum over Aragoncillo's location.

'Be careful'

In Manila, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco warned politicians against admitting that they were recipients of e-mails from Aquino or Aragoncillo.

"Admission at this time by anybody can be dangerous because it may be used as additional evidence to strengthen the case against the top officials involved in the case," Wycoco told reporters.

"At this time, it is premature for anyone to admit anything, so they should be careful in what they say," he said.

Aside from Lacson, former President Joseph Estrada, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez earlier acknowledged having received e-mails from either of the two men.

"The three top officials have been charged with Aquino and Aragoncillo," Wycoco said.

'No money involved'

"[Aquino] takes exception to the insinuation that he received money for the communications he was sending to friends, associates and relatives back in the Philippines that concern the Philippines," Vinluan said in an e-mail, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

"He denies his interrogators' claim that he recruited Mr. Aragoncillo to gather classified information for the Philippine government or any of its officials," Vinluan said, adding:

"In fact, the criminal complaint supports the reverse, that it was actually Mr. Aragoncillo who requested Michael to introduce [him] to a Philippine public official."

Vinluan did not name the Filipino official, but said Aquino saw nothing wrong in introducing Aragoncillo to the latter, "as he has often been requested to do so by people from all walks of life."

He said Aquino was unemployed and, thus, had time to spend "in front of the computer."

Vinluan said his client had received documents from Aragoncillo through e-mail.

He also said Aquino had exchanged e-mails with many persons, including "people in the Philippine government, his mistahs (classmates) from the [Philippine Military] Academy, and even classmates from his elementary and high school days."

RP not Afghanistan

Filipino lawmakers are up in arms and want the US Embassy to thoroughly explain its "spying" activities in the country.

Golez said the Arroyo administration should file a formal protest against American espionage in the Philippines, adding that this was an "affront" to national sovereignty.

"I think the least the government can do is to summon the charge d'affaires in the US Embassy and ask for clarification on what this is all about," Golez said.

AQUINO: He's no spy, says his lawyer

"This cannot happen in Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, or western countries. They can do this in Afghanistan, but the Philippines is not Afghanistan," he added.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said he would file a resolution on Monday calling on the House of Representatives to investigate the matter.

Ocampo said it was "an open secret" that the Joint US Military Advisory Group and the Central Intelligence Agency station at the US Embassy were "the nerve centers of such spying efforts."

"May I also ask: Did the US authorities arrest, detain and charge ... Aragoncillo and ... Aquino only because they spied for the wrong parties and not for the Arroyo clique?" Ocampo said.

He added: "I ask this question because we cannot discount the possibility that the US may be maintaining spies, undertaking spying operations, and feeding so-called confidential information to major elite power players in the Philippines, especially sitting presidents like Arroyo, either to maintain the status quo or foment nominal change. Again, the ultimate goal remains to advance US interests."

Explanation needed

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles has joined the opposition in calling for the Philippine government to ask the US government why it was keeping secret files on Philippine leaders and political developments.

"We should ask [US authorities] to explain why they spy on us when we are allies," Nograles told the INQUIRER.

But he said a diplomatic protest would not be necessary at this point.

"[All we need is] a simple inquiry. No fanfare. [The Department of] Foreign Affairs should handle this," he said.

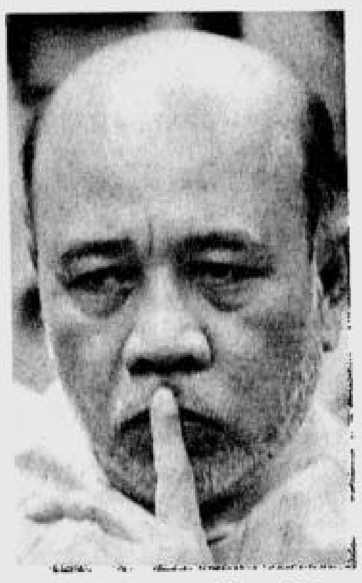
Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin said opposition leaders should stop preempting the FBI by proclaiming that they did not receive secret information from Aquino.

"The truth will be out next week. No amount of cover-up or denial will change the outcome of the probe," Salapuddin said, adding:

"It is just a matter of time before the real mastermind in the spy operations is revealed. Let us stop the guessing game and wait for the FBI to declare who the Filipino cohorts of Aquino and Aragoncillo are, and who their big boss is." *With reports from Margaux C. Ortiz, Philip C. Tubeza and Norman Bordadora in Manila; Michael Lim Ubac in New York*

Michael Ray caper: 'Controlled leak' gone wrong?

By TJ Burgonio



ROBLES: Demand from US treatment due an ally.

THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF Investigation had a hand in the leak of classified information to Philippine officials, and tried to cover up when it was exposed to the media by suing its agent, according to retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles.

"My assumption is that it's a controlled leak gone wrong," Robles, chief of the Philippine military intelligence service's domestic section in 1968-72, said yesterday in a phone interview.

He was referring to US authorities' purported practice of sending intelligence information to political leaders and top businessmen in an effort to build communication lines.

Robles said it was possible an overzealous agent "who wanted to go up the ladder" exposed the communication of FBI classified information to outsiders "without knowing it was a legitimate operation" of Leandro Aragoncillo, the conduit.

"To cover this up, the FBI is now filing pseudo-charges [against Aragoncillo] so that the trail leading to the higher-level authority who ordered the leak will be erased," he said.

After retiring from the military in 1999, Robles, now president of the security risk management consultancy RCR, was included in the "blue book" of intelligence officials.

He was a member of the Feliciano Commission that looked into the causes of the July 2003 "Oakwood mutiny" mounted by a band of disgruntled junior military officers.

Robles did not discount the possibility that the disclosure of Aragoncillo's operation to the media was a mere offshoot of the rivalry between the Republicans and Democrats in Washington.

"Aragoncillo could have been caught in the middle of this rivalry," he said, adding that even the US naval intelligence community did not buy claims that the agent had sold the information for $500,000.

"He's a fall guy," Robles said. "The Democrats know this."

As it happened, Robles said, this was an embarrassment to both the Philippine and US governments because the arrest of Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino coincided with President Macapagal-Arroyo's arrival in New York.

"Why did they do this at a time when the political situation is still volatile?" he said.

He also said he found it odd that Aragoncillo managed to download hundreds of classified information from FBI files undetected.

Robles chided Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation for hinting on the identities of the three supposed recipients of the information even before they could be formally charged.

"Why don't we keep a tight lid on it and demand [from the US] treatment due a friendly ally and resolve this quietly? Let's not create scandal with so little information in our hands," he said.

Robles further charged that by suggesting the extradition of the three recipients of the information before they could be identified, DOJ and NBI officials were virtually "selling the country's sovereignty."

"What if Cory (former President Corazon Aquino) and Erap (deposed President Joseph Estrada) were among the officials? Would they extradite a former President?" he said.

Health care to collapse in two years, medics warn

From page A1

The unabated exodus of Filipino doctors and nurses, coupled with insufficient funding from the government, has forced a number of district hospitals to shut down, Ebesate said.

In Isabela, he said, at least nine government hospitals were closed in 2003 because not enough doctors and nurses could be found.

He also said two district hospitals in Aklan would most likely suffer the same fate, primarily because their respective municipal governments could no longer sustain their operations.

"'Understaffing' in government hospitals have worsened, [and] those who remain [are] overworked," the AHW said in a statement.

A classic example is the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila, a 700-bed facility usually crowded by impoverished mothers.

So is the PGH, where patients have to make do with beds lining the corridors.

Outsourcing, etc.

Some hospitals have been driven to desperate methods in the course of trying to deal with the crisis.

In Cebu, a number of district hospitals are resorting to "outsourcing," or hiring private doctors to work for them, if only to avoid closure, Ebesate said.

He said one hospital in Iloilo was forced to hire medical interns to work as residents to remedy its lack of doctors.

The practice is alarming because interns have yet to take the medical board examinations, he said. Residents have passed the board and work in hospitals usually for three years before pursuing a field of specialization, he explained.

In hiring interns to work as residents, "there is the risk of having human errors," said Ebesate, a nurse of 17 years. "Let's just hope that nothing bad happens to patients."

Solution

An immediate solution to the problem is the implementation of the 2002 Nursing Law, which increases the starting salary from P9,939 to P13,300, according to Ebesate.

He observed, however, that the upgraded wage was still far from the P16,000 monthly salary needed to support a family of six.

Another proposal perennially floated in discussions is requiring those who have passed the medical board examinations to serve in local hospitals, especially in the countryside, before leaving for higher studies or work elsewhere, he said.

But other people say this is tantamount to curtailing a doctor's right to chart his/her career path.

IKAW AT ANG SSS

Questions & Answers on Social Security

Retirement Benefit

What is the retirement benefit?

It is a cash benefit either in monthly pension or lump sum paid to a member who can no longer work due to old age.

Who may qualify for a retirement benefit?

1. A member who is 60 years old, separated from employment or ceased to be self-employed, and has paid at least 120 monthly contributions prior to the semester of retirement.
2. A member who is 65 years old whether employed or not and has paid at least 120 monthly contributions prior to the semester of retirement.

For Underground Mineworkers:

1. Has reached the age of 55 years old and is separated from employment or in the case of self-employed, has ceased his self-employment, and has paid at least 120 monthly contributions prior to the semester of retirement.
2. He is an underground mineworker for at least 5 years (either continuous or accumulated) prior to the semester of retirement but whose actual date of retirement is not earlier than March 13, 1998.
3. Has reached the age of 60 years old whether employed or not.

What are the types of retirement benefits?

1. monthly pension, or
2. lump sum amount.

The monthly pension is a lifetime cash benefit paid to a retiree who has paid at least 120 monthly contributions to the SSS prior to the semester of retirement.

The lump sum amount is granted to a retiree who has not paid the required 120 monthly contributions. It is equal to the total contributions paid by him and on his behalf by his employer including interest.

How much monthly pension will a retiree receive?

The monthly pension depends on the member's paid contributions, including the credited years of service (CYS) and the number of dependent minor children but not to exceed five.

The lowest monthly pension is P1,200 if the member has at least 10 CYS; P2,400 if he has at least 20 CYS.

A retiree has the option to receive the first 18 monthly pensions in lump sum discounted at a preferential rate of interest to be determined by the SSS. The option should be exercised upon filing of the first retirement claim. Only advance payments shall be discounted on the date of payment. The dependents' pension and 13th month pensions are excluded from the 18 months lump sum pension.

The member will receive the monthly pension on the 19th month and every month thereafter.

How is the monthly pension paid?

The monthly pension is paid thru the member's designated bank. He is allowed to choose the bank nearest his residence thru which he wishes to receive his pension benefits under the "Mag-Impok sa Bangko" program. This became mandatory effective September 1, 1993.

A member must open a single savings account and must submit to the SSS his savings account number and a photocopy of his passbook upon filing of his application. The original copy of the passbook must be presented for authentication purposes.

Upon approval of the claim, the SSS will mail a notice-voucher to the claimant informing him when he can withdraw his benefit from the bank.

Are the children of a retiree member entitled to the dependents' pension?

The legitimate, legitimated, or legally adopted and illegitimate children, conceived on or before the date of retirement of a retiree will each receive a dependents' pension equivalent to 10 per cent of the member's monthly pension or P250, whichever is higher. Only five minor children, beginning from the youngest, are entitled to the dependents' pension. No substitution is allowed. If there are more than five dependents, the legitimate, legitimated or legally adopted children shall be preferred.

The dependents' pension stops when the child reaches 21 years old, gets married, gets employed or dies. However, the dependents' pension is granted for life to children who are over 21 years old, provided they are incapacitated and incapable of self-support due to physical or mental defect which is congenital or acquired during minority.

What documents are needed in filing for a retirement benefit?

1. Retirement claim application (SSS Form DDR-1);
2. DDR Savings Account form;
3. Certificate of Separation from last employer (for member less than 65 years old);
4. Passbook (if pension);
5. Certified true copies of birth or baptismal certificates of dependent children;
6. Certification of cessation of business or practice of profession (for self-employed less than 65 years old).
7. Certified true copy of Marriage certificate (if with dependent children);
8. Proofs of filiation for illegitimate dependent children; and
9 SSS digitized ID or E-6 (acknowledgement stub) with two valid IDs, one of which with recent photo.

Where can a member file the retirement application?

Application forms for retirement benefit can be filed at any SSS branch or representative office.

For more information visit the SSS office nearest you or call 924-3465 or 435-9835 or e-mail at member_relations@sss.gov.ph

Kabalikat mo sa buhay!

Fax to: 924-3465 or 435-9835 or Mail to: Member Relations Dept., Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Name:
SS Number:
Address:
Tel. No.:

☐ Inquiry ☐ Suggestion

Use separate sheet, if necesssary

SSS 2003-19

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Singapore police allow hubby to visit wife in jail

SINGAPORE – A FILIPINO MAID ACCUSED of murdering a compatriot and dismembering her body was remanded for another week on Friday, but police allowed a visit by her husband, who had been flown in from the Philippines.

Guen Aguilar, 29, and the mother of two young children, broke into tears as she spied her husband, Edwin, among the largely Filipino audience inside the courtroom where her case was heard.

It was the first time in three years that Aguilar saw her husband, and a visit was being arranged later in the day to the police remand center, said lead defense lawyer Shashi Nathan.

A district court judge granted a request by state prosecutors to keep Aguilar in remand for one more week to allow police to complete their investigation.

Aguilar has been charged with murder, a crime punishable by hanging, for the death of fellow maid Jane La Puebla, whose head and limbs were found inside a sports bag along Singapore's Orchard Road shopping district on Sept. 9.

A torso suspected to be La Puebla's was later found at a nature park.

In Manila, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday pledged to give assistance to the family of La Puebla. Singson said he was touched by the reported lament of La Puebla's husband that while government assistance was immediately extended to his wife's suspected killer, no help has been given to the La Pueblas.

"I will see to it that the needs of the La Puebla family are attended to. Of course, I will also assist the Aguilar family," Singson said in a press statement.

The La Puebla family is from Nueva Vizcaya province while the Aguilars are from Ilocos Sur.

Nathan was able to briefly speak to her client before yesterday's proceedings at the Subordinate Court.

Nathan said Aguilar's husband, Edwin, who had flown in from Manila late Thursday would stay on the sidelines during the visit.

"It's a bit of a human touch at this moment. It's not so much legal. I think today let them be together, let her and her husband spend as much time together.

"They have not seen each other for three years, and it's quite sad that the first time he's seeing her she's in the dock, so I think let's give them whatever privacy we can give them together," Nathan said.

With waist-long hair, Aguilar was clad in jeans and apparently in the same yellow shirt and blue sweater she wore during the first court session last Sunday.

The Philippine ambassador to Singapore, Belen Anota, top embassy officials and members of the Filipino community in Singapore turned out for the hearing. *AFP*

Public must understand Singapore criminal justice system, says Sto. Tomas

LABOR SECRETARY PATRICIA STO. TOMAS yesterday said the public must understand Singapore's criminal justice system to allay anxiety about the case of Filipino maid Guen Aguilar, who is accused of murdering and dismembering a compatriot, Jane La Puebla.

"We have to understand that Singapore has a different judicial system and criminal court procedures. Our judgment on whether Aguilar is being given due process or not should not be based on the Philippine legal framework," Sto. Tomas told reporters.

The Aguilar case has sparked intense interest because of the parallels with that of Flor Contemplacion that sparked street protests and a diplomatic row with Singapore. Contemplacion was hanged 10 years ago for murdering another Filipino maid and a 4-year-old Singaporean boy.

Sto. Tomas explained that Singapore criminal procedures are unlike the Philippines' which are fully transparent. The British-inspired Singaporean judicial system has done away with indictments and automatically prescribes the death penalty for first-degree murder and drug trafficking.

In the Philippines, a crime suspect is first indicted by a prosecutor before the case is brought to court. He has access to counsel at all times and may even be interviewed by media.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development yesterday appealed to the media to be more careful about interviewing the families of Aguilar and La Puebla.

Acting DSWD Secretary Liwayway Pablo explained that these families were poor barrio folk who were not used to media attention and rigid questioning. *Jerome Aning and Cynthia D. Balana*

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BUILT-IN SONGS	• English & Most Popular OPM Songs • Latest pop hits popularized by local and foreign artists	Artists from the 60's, 70's and 80's No latest popular OPM songs
PITCH CORRECTION	Corrects pitch & tune at the press of a button	None
REVERB SETTINGS	5 Reverb Effects Set in Realistic Music Venues	Echo control only
VOICE TRANSFORMATION	Male to Female, Female to Male, Adult to Child, Spaceman to Techno	Male to Female and vice versa only
DUET FUNCTION	With Duet Capability for Every Song	None
HARMONY	Provides Second Voice Blending to User	None
REAL TIME SCORING	Averages your score based on every note	General Scoring
SONG SELECTIONS ARRANGEMENT	By Artist and By Title	Varied and Random
TEMPO AND KEY CONTROL	Adjustable w/o harming the music quality	Adjustable
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Where Garci was first heard to say hello

From page A1

programmed targets. Doble and his team had a mission: snoop the airwaves for clues about plans by the political opposition during the May 10, 2004 elections.

After the recordings, Doble, or some other member of the team, transcribed the tapes and submitted the transcript to a superior officer. Following the code of secrecy, Doble and his team proceeded to destroy the tape. Except that in this case, they did not.

Welcome to Mig 21, the home of the modern-day digital spies that brought you the "Hello Garci" tapes.

Isafp visitors lounging at the open cottage nesting in the middle of the lagoon would have never guessed that what these digital eavesdroppers were recording would trigger the worst political crisis in the 4-year-old presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Known officially as Military Intelligence Group 21 under Lt. Col. Pedro Sumayo Jr., Mig 21 handles "technical intelligence" gathering for the Isafp, the premier spy agency of the military.

A highly specialized unit, Mig 21 or Technical Intelligence, has agents trained in gathering intelligence using electronic gadgets, or what would be often referred to as "bugging" and "wiretapping." That explains why, following the exposure of the "Hello Garci" conversations, a number of officials from Malacañang and the military suspected right off the bat the tapes could only have been recorded by Mig 21.

A retired general and a colonel who both had worked with the Isafp on intelligence projects, confirmed the goings-on at the office beside the Isafp man-made lagoon.

Tap, transcribe, destroy

According to them, the Mig 21 follows simple rules: "tap, transcribe then destroy the tape." Sometimes, the "tapping takes place outside," said the colonel, "but the transcribing and the annotating are always done at the Mig 21 office."

The annotation includes the time and the identity of the callers, if they were identified at all. But the tape is always destroyed after the transcription "so there is no evidence," the colonel explained. "What's important is the data, the operational data found in the transcript," he said.

Mig 21 has about 100 employees consisting of operatives, technicians, drivers, security and administrative support.

A keen observer might notice telecommunication vans enter the Isafp compound usually about 5 p.m., and park near the quiet, seemingly uninhabited Mig 21 office.

June 6

But it was far from quiet on June 6. Along with Sumayo, Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo and other Isafp senior officials reportedly spent the day checking its inventory of tapes and transcripts while trying to explain to higher quarters, all the way to the Palace, an apparent security lapse.

And Quevedo had to deny straightfaced that the Isafp was engaged in "wiretapping" because "it does not have the capability."

But Doble, in a videotaped statement unknown to his Isafp superiors, admitted he was part of a 14-man team assigned to monitor former Election Commisioner Virgilio Garcillano and opposition leaders for a period before, during and after the May 10 elections. He also admitted that "effective gadgets" were used in monitoring the targeted personalities.

A former Isafp chief also recalled that Quevedo's predecessor, Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, boasted about Isafp's latest equipment given by the United States to fight the al-Qaida-linked terrorists sometime in late 2003.

New equipment from US

Shortly after his appointment, Danga invited a group of former chiefs of Isafp for a "briefing" on what was new at their old command. A retired officer recalled Danga crowing about "new equipment from the US that could be used to monitor suspected terrorists."

INQUIRER sources agree that the order to conduct "technical surveillance" on Garcillano could only come from someone "high," no doubt a powerful figure in Malacañang.

Most of the sources point their finger to a person "very close" to the President. The motive? "Distrust. Garcillano was given millions to run the special operations for the May 10, 2004 elections to ensure GMA's victory. Therefore, he must be watched," said a source with links to the First Couple.

Other targets

The number of the cell phone targeted for monitoring was given either to Danga or Sumayo, who ordered the number programmed into the computerized monitoring equipment. To carry out the task, Sumayo created a 14-man team, which included Doble, and had the plan approved by Lt. Col. Allen Capuyan, chief of the Operations and Intelligence Division (OID).

"Operations is the heart of intelligence. All operations must pass through OID," a lieutenant colonel who worked with OID in the '90s, said.

But Garcillano was not the lone target. In a videotaped statement, Doble said they also monitored oppositionists like Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio "Boy" Morales and movie actor Rez Cortez, who is closely identified with the late Fernando Poe Jr.

Before, during, after

According to the Doble video, the monitoring took place "before, during and after" the May 10 elections. According to him, the monitorings were taped and these tapes were kept at his office in Mig 21.

But the significance of the tape, and perhaps its monetary value, only dawned upon Doble and the team when they heard the familiar voice of the President, one of the sources said. In fact, none of the monitoring team knew the identity of the person they were monitoring, thus the code name "Gary," until after the President's voice caught their ears.

The President's voice on the tape also caught Palace officials offguard, according to insider accounts of what transpired at the Palace when they learned about the tape on June 3. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

For months, the "tape" was a secret kept by Mig 21. Rumors about the "smoking gun" however, started to leak out by October or November, said a another source. "The euphoria of the election was still in the air. Nobody really cared," the source said.

Superior orders

It would not be until March 2, 2005, that Ong would get hold of the four "master tapes" from "operatives of the Isafp who are my friends," he said in a videotaped conversation with Bishop Teodoro Bacani at the San Carlos Seminary on June 10, 2005.

"When they gave these to me, they said, Sir, please take care of these tapes. For your ears only, Sir," Ong recalled his meeting with his Isafp friends.

According to Ong, the Isafp operatives also confided that the order to conduct the monitoring came in the form of a telephone number given them by their superior officer. "Without any order from our superiors, we could not (monitor). As good soldiers, we just follow," Ong quoted them as saying.

Ong said each tape ran 90-minutes each side, or a total of 180 minutes per tape. He said he got "confused" after listening to the tapes, but not so confused as to forget to recopy one of the master tapes.

He said he made three copies, and gave a copy to a "fraternal brother" who is a ranking officer in the AFP, another copy to a close friend who is also a ranking AFP officer and a copy to another "fraternal brother". He kept the "master tape" of the three recopies, and gave the three other master tapes to three fraternal brothers for "safekeeping."

'Hulog ng langit'

"The one I am producing now is the mother of all tapes going around today," Ong declared.

The tape reached ex-President Estrada's camp also in April, courtesy of Ong himself who approached Horacio Morales with the tape, according to an INQUIRER source. Morales subsequently brought the tape to Estrada, who "bought" the tape from Ong allegedly for P7 million, the source continued. The amount was shelled out by Estrada's mistress, Laarni Enriquez, who allegedly exclaimed "hulog ng langit," (gift from heaven), according to the same source.

Morales admitted he was among the first to know about the tape. But he denied knowing about it from Ong. "I learned about it from a group," he told the INQUIRER. He denied having told Estrada about it, too. In fact, Morales said he left for the United States soon after. His trip fueled another rumor that he brought the tape from the United States.

Former Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad said a tape was mailed to him sometime April 1 or 2 while he and his wife were preparing to go to New York. But when Pope John Paul II died on April 2, Tatad decided to go to Rome instead for the funeral. The couple was away for a month. It was only in early May when Tatad, going over his mail, found a note inquiring if he had listened to the tape.

Politically charged

"I listened to it casually, and I realized it was politically charged," Tatad said. He had it recopied, and gave the copy to Atty. Carao, who sent the tape abroad for authentication. Tatad's copy, the one he got through the mail, was handed over to Atty. Allan Paguia "for legal study."

Tatad said he also started talking to "personalities" in the church and academe about the tape. But he did not play the tape yet. "I just told them that it existed," Tatad said.

He said he would have wanted a "non-partisan" group to bring out the tape. But unknown to him, Paguia had prepared compact discs of the controversial portions of the 90-minute tape. "He was not very discreet. He was hinting to so many people, so it leaked," Tatad said.

On May 28 or 29, businessman/columnist Herminio "Ka Mentong" Tiu-Laurel said he was invited by Paguia to a meeting. From a restaurant along T. Morato, Tiu-Laurel said he boarded Paguia's car.

"We were prowling around Timog-Morato, you know, just going around," Tiu-Laurel said, adding that after listening, he got off without taking a copy of the CD. Tiu-Laurel denied having been the "source" of the CD that reached Malacañang.

Tatad felt that the copy he received could be "one of the three" copies that Ong made from the "mother of all tapes." It was possible that one copy went to Estrada through Morales, and the other copy was given to Sen. Panfilo Lacson through a lawyer close to Ong. Lacson has told the INQUIRER he got a tape "from an independent source."

Agents make copies

An INQUIRER source, the retired general earlier cited in this report, pointed out the possibility of not one, but several agents, making their own copies of the tape. He noted that the annotation was made by "five voices," one of them Doble's. "The team annotated, transcribed and submitted the report to their superior. They must know that the tape was evidence," he said.

An affidavit filed by Marietta Santos, Doble's mistress, showed that the tape that rocked the Arroyo administration had come from Doble—whom she referred to as Jeff—who gave it to Ong through Lito Santiago, a driver-photographer at NBI and a trusted bodyguard of Ong. But Marietta was not present when Doble handed it to Ong in March. What she would witness was the videotaping of Doble's admission as source of the tape.

Doble's words, however, would be denied by the Isafp and the AFP who maintained they did not have the equipment, or the mandate, to conduct wiretapping. But retired and active Isafp officials interviewed by the INQUIRER said otherwise. "Wiretapping is allowed with court approval, and only for matters that involve national security," a former Isafp chief stressed. *(To be continued)*

Panic, confusion started at the Palace on June 3

From page A1

scribed how the President's spokesperson unwittingly found himself at the center of the "Hello, Garci" wiretapping controversy.

They recounted the turn of events in separate interviews with the INQUIRER.

Wednesday group

Bunye had emerged from the meeting with other Palace officials uneasy about his assignment.

Among those at the meeting were Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, Tomas Alcantara, Willie Villarama, Pancho Villaraza and the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo—all members of the Wednesday group.

The group was so named because its members regularly met every Wednesday. Sometimes, Palace staff members pejoratively called it the "Shadow Cabinet" (to distinguish it from the official Cabinet that meets every Tuesday).

The Wednesday group had been meeting since June 3, playing and replaying the tape in a room at the Palace.

The President showed up at the meeting that Friday, shortly after Malacañang received a copy of the tape from a government lawyer.

By accounts, the tape caught the President by surprise.

Said a former Palace official: "Listen to the tape. The way Ms Arroyo talked, the way she gave orders to the man at the other end of the line was exactly the way she gave orders to us. She micro-manages things when she wants quick results."

All of those present at the meeting were convinced that it was Ms Arroyo talking, the INQUIRER sources said. They agreed that the tape—and there was only one that the Palace received, according to the same sources—was "one big, big problem."

Whodunit

Until Saturday morning, the Wednesday group did not know what to do with the tape.

Villarama was seen walking in and out of the room. Inside, questions raged: Who taped the conversation? Who is distributing copies of the tape? How many copies are out there? Who are holding copies?

At his press briefing on June 6, Bunye showed up holding in his left hand a gold CD (supposedly the original) and in his right, a silver CD (supposedly a spliced tape).

Bunye said he was showing the CDs to preempt opposition leaders from disclosing the tapes themselves and from using these to pave the way for a power grab within the next few days.

He said opposition leaders were to use the tapes to reinforce the view that the Arroyo administration cheated its way to victory in the May 2004 presidential election.

Played later by media outfits, the silver CD had Ms Arroyo talking to one Edgar Ruado, a staff member of her brother-in-law, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo. The gold CD had her talking to a much older man, said to be then Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

How Palace got it

In the recollection of one of the sources, Malacañang got a copy of the tape a day after a government lawyer received a CD from an asset (or informer) in the coffee shop of a Pasay hotel on June 2, a Thursday.

The asset reportedly warned the lawyer that two key opposition leaders had also each been given a copy.

Where his asset got the tape, the lawyer did not ask. The source quoted him as saying: "Among intelligence people, you don't ask questions like that. It would show that you're a novice. You have to do your own assignment to get more details."

The lawyer brought the CD home, played it, and was bewildered by what he heard.

He made a copy and on the night of June 4, called his superior to report receipt of the tape. The superior later notified a Malacañang official.

The lawyer met his superior at the Freedom Park, a few steps across from the Palace. He gave his superior a copy of the tape, which eventually found its way to the Wednesday group.

Quoting the lawyer, the superior told the Palace men that the source of the tape had also given two opposition leaders a copy each and that the opposition was preparing to announce its contents.

This was what prompted the panic meetings of the Wednesday group.

One INQUIRER source said it was the gold CD, the original tape, which the government lawyer received from the asset.

The silver CD was a reproduction, a product of the Wednesday group's collaboration, the source said, adding:

"[The original] runs for only 32 minutes. The others are mere reproductions, especially the ones with voice-overs, and these are longer."

The Wednesday group came out with the silver copy at the lawyer's suggestion.

"When you present a problem, you offer a solution. Ruado was a solution, a fall guy," the source quoted the lawyer as saying.

Press conferences

The Wednesday group heard that the opposition was to hold simultaneous press conferences on the tape in Metro Manila, Hong Kong (supposedly to be conducted by former Sen. Francisco Tatad) and Singapore (to be conducted by an incumbent senator) on June 8.

Opposition leaders denied this, but the Palace men did not buy the denial. Days later, a Malacañang official phoned a high-profile PR man who was then in Hong Kong and demanded to know if it was true that he was organizing there a news conference for the opposition.

Furious, the PR man said he was in Hong Kong only to play golf.

He calmed down only after talking to a newly confirmed Cabinet member, who told him: "I will take care of that. I will take care of you."

Bug order for Garci

Bunye failed to convince many people, least of all the three INQUIRER sources.

When a copy of the tape reached the Wednesday group that Friday afternoon, it meant only one thing—there is truth to the maxim that what goes around comes around, the sources said.

They said a relative of the President's and a politician known to be skilled in political operations were behind the order given to some soldiers of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces to bug Garcillano for a fee.

According to the sources, tapping Garcillano was meant to ensure that he would abide by the agreement he had made with certain Palace officials—that he would institute "some reforms" in the May 2004 presidential election.

The Isafp soldiers did as ordered, but half of the promised fee did not reach them. They waited, but soon felt that they were forgotten in the euphoria of Ms Arroyo's victory.

It was then that they thought of reproducing the tape and selling the copy to the opposition. *(See story on Page A1.)*

NBI man

After the opposition came out with copies of the tape, Malacañang officials, especially those not part of the Wednesday group, ganged up on Bunye.

He also drew flak from opposition members in the House of Representatives during the early days of the "Hello, Garci" investigation.

At one point in the inquiry, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero asked Bunye if it was true that he got the copy of the tape from one Reynaldo Esmeralda of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Bunye sidestepped the question, but Escudero repeatedly tried to pin him down.

Both Bunye and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco denied having received the tape from Esmeralda. The latter, chief of the NBI's special task force unit, issued a similar denial in media interviews.

Text messages

Palace officials watching the televised House hearing wondered: Where did Escudero get that information?

Escudero's question was based on a text message sent by his colleague in the opposition, South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio.

In turn, Custodio received a text message sent by an aide of former NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong. The two men were both watching the hearing at a safe house outside Metro Manila.

Ong has been in hiding since declaring that he had the "mother of all tapes" in a news conference in Makati City on June 10.

INQUIRER sources said members of the Wednesday group exchanged blame, but singled out Bunye for supposedly mishandling the June 6 briefing and the subsequent House and media briefings.

Hyatt 10

On July 5, Secretaries Cesar Purisima (finance), Florencio Abad (education), Corazon "Dinky" Soliman (social welfare) and Emilia Boncodin (budget) and presidential adviser on the peace process Teresita "Ging" Deles urged Ms Arroyo to address the "Hello, Garci" controversy.

They proposed that she own up and apologize to the public, send her husband away, and fire officials identified with him, such as Edgar Manda of the Laguna Lake Development Authority and Efraim Genuino of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Ms Arroyo agreed to all three proposals, the sources said.

After her televised apology—which apparently did not turn out the way the officials wanted it to—the Cabinet lavished her with songs and flowers.

Ms Arroyo also told her husband to go abroad. He agreed, but vigorously opposed the sacking of officials identified with him, the sources said.

When it became clear that she would not fire Genuino, the five (Purisima, Abad, Soliman, Boncodin and Deles) and five others decided on July 8 that they would resign, and that they would announce it the following day at the Hyatt Hotel.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas was also planning to quit, but decided at the last minute not to join her friends Soliman and Boncodin, a source said.

She wrote them a "Dear all" letter, saying her decision to stay "[did] not mean that she love[d] the President more and love[d] them less."

To which one of the resigned Cabinet women said: *"Ewan sa kanya."*

Rearrangements

Ms Arroyo learned of the Hyatt 10's plan from Environment Secretary Michael Defensor and preempted it by demanding the resignation of all members of her Cabinet.

But before then, presidential advisers Victoria Garchitorena and Corazon Guidote tendered their resignations, although these were made public a few weeks later.

The landscape has since been rearranged.

Defensor and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, along with Gabriel Claudio (Ms Arroyo's political adviser) and Rigoberto Tiglao (chief of the Presidential Management Staff), have taken center stage in defending the President.

Tiglao is now the de facto overall communications director, replacing Silvestre Afable who quit the post on July 5.

Rep. Ronaldo Puno has also since become highly visible at the Palace. (A former Cabinet member said she did not realize that Puno was there all throughout the time she was in Malacanang.)

Priority shift

The sources said the high profile of Ermita, Defensor, Claudio and Tiglao signaled a shift in Palace priority from economic reforms to national security.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane have also been recruited to the Palace's inner circle—presumably, the sources said, to handle Garcillano and the "Hello, Garci" witnesses.

On July 12, Bunye told the INQUIRER that he had also tendered his resignation, effective as soon as the President found a replacement. (It was the fourth time he had quit since he joined Malacañang in July 2002.)

By then, the man Bunye was talking with on the phone on the eve of his "Hello, Garci" press briefing had likewise quit.

GMA open to VAT delay

From page A1

But in the face of questioning from foreign businessmen, Ms Arroyo declared that the government could live without the VAT on fuel and power for a temporary period.

She pointed out that the VAT on power and fuel was not in the administration's version of the bill submitted to Congress last year.

"It's like a windfall that the Senate gave actually when they went through our draft and went through the amendments," she said. "When I made my State of the Nation Address last year, I asked Congress for P80 billion in taxes and it gave me P120 billion from the VAT alone."

P80-B target achievable

"Congress gave me a bigger revenue generation than I asked for. So if there will be some reduction because of the joint resolutions, there is still room for us to be able to achieve what I asked from them in the first place, which is P80 billion."

Roxas and Salceda have said that including petroleum and power sales in the VAT law's coverage now would add misery to marginalized Filipinos already suffering from soaring transport expenses and electricity bills.

Ms Arroyo praised the authors of the resolutions seeking to delay the application of the VAT on power and fuel, that is, Roxas and Salceda.

They "are former fund managers who remain in close contact with the financial community," she said.

The 15-day period for the opposers to seek a reconsideration of the Supreme Court ruling expires today.

Last day

But today being a non-working day, court officials said the true deadline would be Monday.

"If the pleading falls on a non-working day, it will be due on the next business day," said lawyer Claire Guerra of the high court's press information office.

In its 81-page decision, the court said lifting of the July 1 temporary restraining order would take effect 15 days after the parties shall have been notified about the decision.

"After Monday, if nobody files an MR [motion for reconsideration], the E-VAT can be considered final already ... Monday is the last day for the filing of an MR," court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. told the INQUIRER.

But he said the lifting of the TRO would not be automatic, saying the court would have to first issue an "entry of judgment" upon lapse of the deadline.

The opposers had questioned the constitutionality of the provision of the law giving the President "stand-by authority" to increase VAT rate to 12 percent in January, among others. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

GMA proposes relief for debt-ridden nations

IN A 5-MINUTE SPEECH AT the UN General Assembly, Ms Arroyo yesterday urged the world body to help heavily indebted developing countries, like the Philippines, to convert half of their debts into investments in pro-poor programs.

"We are not asking for debt forgiveness or debt cancellation," she said. "What we propose is that the debt service, or principal amount, should be converted into equity in new projects of at least equal value and with their potential earnings."

Based on Ms Arroyo's proposal, the Philippines could convert up to 50 percent of its debt for anti-poverty financing programs under the UN's Millennium Development Goals, which aims to reduce the incidence of poverty in the world by half by 2015.

As of end-December last year, the Philippines has a total foreign debt of $54.8 billion and spends 60 centavos out of every peso in the government budget to pay the principal and the interest.

Ms Arroyo argued that while debt relief for impoverished countries was laudable, "there are also many middle-income countries that are highly indebted and have large populations that survive on less than $1 a day."

"I hope that this debt plan will find its way into the Summit declaration and the Paris Club, the G-8 governments, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank, the regional development bank, and the world's large commercial banks will approve this proposal. We offer this option amid the energy crunch," she said.

Palace may have to redo budget–DOF

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE to trim its proposed P1.09-trillion budget for 2006 if the plan to exclude oil and electricity from VAT pushes through, the finance department said yesterday.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan told reporters the proposed budget already incorporated in it the entire P86 billion worth of expected incremental revenues from the VAT reform law.

But if oil and electricity would remain exempted from VAT, then the government would have to redo its budget programming for 2006.

Under the originally proposed 2006 fiscal program, expenditures are placed at P1.09 trillion, while the expected revenue collection is at P968.6 billion, thus resulting in a deficit of P124.9 billion.

UN security cools ardor of GMA 'bakot' crowd

From page A1

cheered President Macapagal-Arroyo's perfunctory speech before the 60th UN General Assembly in New York, forcing the United Nations security to chastise the overzealous group.

The "pala" (claque) boys led by House Speaker Jose de Venecia were present in all of the President's UN engagements in the last three days.

They clapped their hands when Ms Arroyo was introduced as the next speaker, prompting a polite but firm reminder from UN security.

One of 151

The President is just one of 151 leaders who were slated to deliver a speech at United Nation's New York headquarters. Speeches in these events are considered pro forma, with some leaders speaking before mostly empty seats.

With so many leaders expected to stand before the rostrum all day, the UN reminded leaders to keep their speeches brief and their respective delegates not to interfere in the proceedings. This was why the UN security expressly cautioned the audience in the gallery to refrain from clapping.

The group again cheered at the latter part of the President's speech. This time, however, the UN security gave the Arroyo boosters dagger looks, but chose to let the incident pass since the President's speech was very brief.

The "pala" boys finally parted ways with Ms Arroyo when she flew to San Francisco yesterday to extend her visit in the United States by a day.

Reunion

The President will meet for the first time in a long while her eldest son, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, who has been in voluntary exile with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in their San Francisco home since June this year.

Among the congressmen in the Arroyo booster group were Rep. Anthony Miranda (Isabela), Carmelita Villarosa (Mindoro Oriental), Herminia Ramiro (Mindoro Occidental), Danilo Suarez (Quezon), Reynaldo Aquino, Ana York Bondoc (Pampanga), Jesli Lapuz (Tarlac), Raul del Mar (Cebu), Antonio Cuenco (Cebu), Nerissa Soon-Ruiz (Cebu), Reylina Nicolas (Bulacan) and Lorna Silverio (Bulacan). The local government officials in the group were Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong, Agusan del Sur Gov. Adolph Edward Plaza, Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymond Villafuerte, Danao City Mayor Ramon Durano and Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee.

3 drown in floods ...

From page A1

boats to rescue stranded people and search for the missing. *(See related stories on Page A15).*

4 flights cancelled

Four domestic flights were cancelled while 13 others were delayed, the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) said.

In Muntinlupa, Alexander Bihag, 24, and his two nieces, Angel and Alison Analupa, aged 1 and 2, were swept away by the strong currents in Pasong Diablo creek after their shanty collapsed at 2 a.m., rescue team leader Michael Jocson said.

The three victims were inside their makeshift house when the Laguna de Bay swelled, slammed water into the city's rivers and creeks and swept away their hut and two others, relief officials said.

City Lake Management officer Ariel Dolleton said the two children were being held by their father when their house collapsed.

"Their father accidentally let go of them ... There is a possibility that they did not survive," he said.

But two other children, Sunshine Analupa and Christine Talento, were rescued from the swollen creek.

Two people were injured when a landslide struck three shanties at Sitio Mabilog, Barangay San Luis, in Antipolo City, police said.

Respite tomorrow?

The weather bureau said the country could expect a respite from hours of rain starting tomorrow when the active low pressure area that triggered yesterday's downpour shall have moved out of the Philippine area of responsibility.

Satellite images as of 4 p.m. yesterday showed the low pressure area had passed southwestern Zambales and was moving toward the South China Sea, where it was likely to merge with a tropical depression, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

"It may merge and become a strong typhoon, but it will not hit the Philippines anymore. It may head toward Vietnam," Pagasa weather forecasting chief Herman Ngohayon said.

It's clearing in Visayas

Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, however, would continue to experience rains in the next 24 hours due to the intertropical convergence zone covering southern and central Luzon, and western Visayas.

"It's already clearing in the Visayas area. The concentration now is in Western Visayas and Southern and Central Luzon, but it's not as intense because the LPA [low pressure area] is now nearing the South China sea," Ngohayon said.

A low pressure area is a system that causes cloudy skies and rains, and may develop into a tropical depression or typhoon when the wind strength reaches 55 kph. The active low pressure area that passed the country was 30 kph.

Better safe than sorry

In Paranaque City, Mayor Florencio Bernabe declared suspension of classes in public and private schools at the elementary and high school levels.

"It's better to be safe than sorry," the mayor said.

Hundreds of residents had to be evacuated from two barangays in Marikina City when the Marikina River swelled to alarming levels beginning Thursday night.

By 5 a.m., however, most of the residents had gone back home.

But the Tumana Bridge remained impassable to motorists as of mid-afternoon yesterday.

Despite the bad weather condition, the Miaa's flight advisory as of 11:30 a.m. said that there were "normal operations" at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1, used by international airlines, and at the Naia Centennial Terminal, which is used exclusively for the domestic and international flights of Philippine Airlines (PAL).

Garbage to blame, too

The non-stop rains caused sudden flooding in the eastern and southern parts of the national capital region, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said about 192-mm of rainwater fell over Metro Manila from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday. Coupled with garbage and siltation in the drainage system, the downpour caused pocket floods in low-lying areas and sudden flooding in cities whose major waterways had overflowed.

The heavy downpour also forced the Department of Public Works and Highways to close sections of three roads in Northern and Central Luzon yesterday.

Because of landslides, the Kokok section of the Tabuk-Banaue Road in Kalinga was impassable and thus declared closed.

9-hour traffic jam

Hundreds of vehicles were stranded as the rains caused a nine-hour traffic congestion along the northbound and southbound lanes of the South Luzon Expressway (Slex) on Thursday midnight until early Friday morning.

According to Arnel Gonzales, radio operator of the Philippine National Construction Corp., the bottleneck in Slex started when floodwater began to rise along the northbound lane at about 11:45 p.m.

At almost the same time, the ABI exit in nearby Sta. Rosa town was also affected by heavy flooding.

Along the southbound lane, traffic affected the 10-km stretch of the Sucat Exit to the flooded area in Susana Heights.

In the northbound area, vehicles were stalled along the six-kilometer stretch of Carmona Exit to Susana Heights.

In Pangil, Laguna, the rampaging Pangil river overflowed, flooding several houses of Barangay Isla.

Many offices inside Camp Crame lost power on Thursday night when strong winds knocked out an electric transformer. *Reports from Jocelyn R. Uy, Blanche S. Rivera, Tarra V. Quismundo, Nikko Dizon, Luige A. del Puerto, Leila B. Salaverria, Nancy Carvajal, DJ Yap, Marlon Ramos with a report from Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DOST announces new batch of S & T scholars from Muslim and indigenous communities

Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) announces the names of thirty-six (36) qualifiers out of a total of 140 examinees who took the 2005 GREAT-M scholarship examination held in five (5) test centers in Mindanao last July 10, 2005. GREAT-M stands for Grants for Educational Assistance on Technology and Science Teaching Courses in Mindanao. "This is an educational grant on technology and science teaching courses offered by the government to poor, talented and deserving students from the Muslim and indigenous communities of Mindanao, " Secretary Alabastro said.

Twelve (12) examinees qualified under the Science and Mathematics Teaching, while twenty four (24) qualified for the Technician Course.

Applicants to the scholarship program came from the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Lanao Sur, Maguindanao, North and South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and indigenous communities. They are high school graduates with a grade of at least 80% in science and mathematics.

According to Dr. Ester B. Ogena, Director of the Science Education Institute (SEI), "the GREAT-M scholarship program is a project of the DOST through the SEI aimed at improving the quality of life of Muslim youths and indigenous communities and enabling them to contribute positively to national development." She stated further, "this is a significant step towards addressing issues of equity and access to educational opportunities."

As incentives, the qualifiers will receive tuition fees and other school fees; book, transportation and uniform allowances; monthly living allowances and group health insurance, among others.

The qualifiers will be notified about the scholarship award and will be advised to report together with a parent or guardian to the DOST XII or ARMM Regional Office. They should bring the following requirements: accompanying parent's 2005 Community Tax Certificate and notarization fee.

The names of three potential qualifiers were withheld subject to further evaluation of required documents.

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Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute

Shaping the Future Now

Qualifiers to the 2005 Grants for Educational Assistance on Technology and Science Teaching Courses in Mindanao (Project GREAT-M)

Science and Mathematics Teaching

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BORANSING, RAMINA O.
ESCO, SOLAIMAN G.
GUIAPAL, DATU BARANZIL A.
KUSAIN, SITTIE JIYUNRIY K.
LAMPUKAN, MUSA A.
LAYAGIN, ABDULRAJAB I.
MALOGKA, ABUL KHAYR S.
PATADON , EVERLY G.
SAIDON, FAISAL N.
SALIKALA, AL-SHARIF K.
TALIB, ABDULMOJAIMEN K.

Technical Course

ABSARANI, JOHNNY B.
AGAO, NORHANA K.
ANAYATIN, SAIDA O.
ANGGOTO, YUNOS K.
ANGKAD, NORAINIE P.
ANGKANAN, INDIRA G.
CUHIT, JAZEL MAL P.
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FERNANDO, ROGELIO L.
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GUIBAN, REYCIALYN M.
JALAIDI, ALKHAVIER A.
LAUBAN, JALALYN BAIMOMPONG M.
LU, NORODIN DANIEL B.
MACMOD, LARRY G.
MALATIN, JERIBY S.
MAMA, SARIPA M.
PANOY, ELIZABETH B.
PENDATUN, MAURED T.
SANOH, BERSHIBA T.
SERGIO, SAMIRA A.

The same list is also avilable at the website
www.science-scholarships.ph

ADVT

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraq rebels mount new wave of attacks

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THREE LABORERS WAITING FOR day jobs in east Baghdad were killed and a dozen wounded early Friday in a drive-by shooting, police said. Elsewhere, an insurgent bomb killed three policemen, and the mayor of a town south of the capital was assassinated after rebels killed his four bodyguards.

The attack in Baghdad, which occurred in the New Baghdad district at a spot where laborers gather each morning looking for day jobs—followed a day of mayhem in the capital on Thursday when suicide bombers killed at least 31 people in two attacks that targeted Iraqi police.

On Wednesday, more than a dozen bombings ripped through the city, killing 167 people and wounding about 570. Many of the victims also were day laborers lured by a suicide attacker posing as an employer.

US officials said the bombing onslaught was likely an effort by the Sunni Arab-dominated insurgency in response to the Iraqi army's successful offensive in the northern city of Tal Afar and to undermine the Oct. 15 referendum on Iraq's new constitution.

"These spikes of violence are predictable around certain critical events that highlight the progress of democracy," said Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, the chief American military spokesperson.

Coalition forces said they killed nine insurgents when they launched an air strike on the town of Karabilah, about 320 kilometers west of Baghdad.

The attack on Thursday night destroyed an abandoned school the US military said was being used by al-Qaida in Iraq militants to carry out attacks against local civilians and coalition forces.

"At the time of the strike, terrorists were also observed firing mortars outside the building," the statement said, adding that the attack was "timed and executed in a manner to reduce the possibility of collateral damage."

Iraqi and US officials say the fighters sneak across the porous border with Syria and have accused the Damascus government of doing little to stop the influx, a charge Syria has repeatedly rejected.

US forces have waged repeated campaigns against militants in al-Anbar province, each time declaring victory only to see the towns and cities in the so-called Sunni Triangle again come under insurgent control.

The military also said a US Marine was killed in the province on Thursday in an "indirect fire explosion" near the city of Ramadi in al-Anbar province.

Closer to Baghdad, a parked car bomb detonated near an Iraqi police patrol in the town of Haswa, killing three officers and wounding four, police Capt. Muthana Khalid said.

And in the Iskandariya district, 50 kilometers south of Baghdad, gunmen broke into the house of the local mayor and shot him dead, after first killing his four bodyguards, police Capt. Muthans Khalid said.

Al-Qaida in Iraq, headed by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the campaign of violence launched after an Iraqi-US force of 8,500 soldiers stormed Tal Afar, an insurgent bastion in the northwest, earlier this week.

Al-Zarqawi then purportedly declared "all-out war" on Shiite Muslims, Iraqi troops and the government in what the United States has called a desperate propaganda campaign to derail the political process, including the upcoming referendum on the draft constitution.

Leaders of the Sunni Arab minority in Iraq have vowed to defeat the constitution, which they claim favors the Shiite majority and the Kurds.

Lynch said the joint force killed 145 insurgents and captured 361 in the second operation in a year to rid Tal Afar of militants, including foreign fighters crossing from Syria.

Now, he said, US forces along with the Iraqis were fighting to regain control of the Syrian border, near the western insurgent stronghold of Qaim well to the south of Tal Afar.

"The focus is ... to restore control of the border and in this particular case the border with Syria," he said. "We believe that the terrorists and foreign fighters are entering Iraq across the Syrian border, down the Euphrates River Valley into Baghdad."

As al-Qaida in Iraq intensified its bombing and propaganda campaign, the government hit back with threats.

"We will not retreat or be silent. There will be no room for you (insurgents) in all of Iraq. We will chase you wherever you go," Defense Minister Sadoun al-Dulaimi, a Sunni, told reporters.

Iraqi authorities have taken pains in recent days to convince the population that the insurgency is overwhelmingly foreign, claiming, for example, that they arrested a Palestinian and a Libyan in the Kazimiyah attack on Wednesday that left at least 160 dead. The bomber was a Syrian, the government said without detailing evidence.

The Americans have quietly contradicted that government line, saying the insurgency is only about 20 percent foreign.

The massive bombings took place with both Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari in the United States.

"Today, Iraq is facing one of the most brutal campaigns of terror at the hands of the forces of darkness," Talabani said Thursday, addressing the UN General Assembly with an appeal for international help. **AP**

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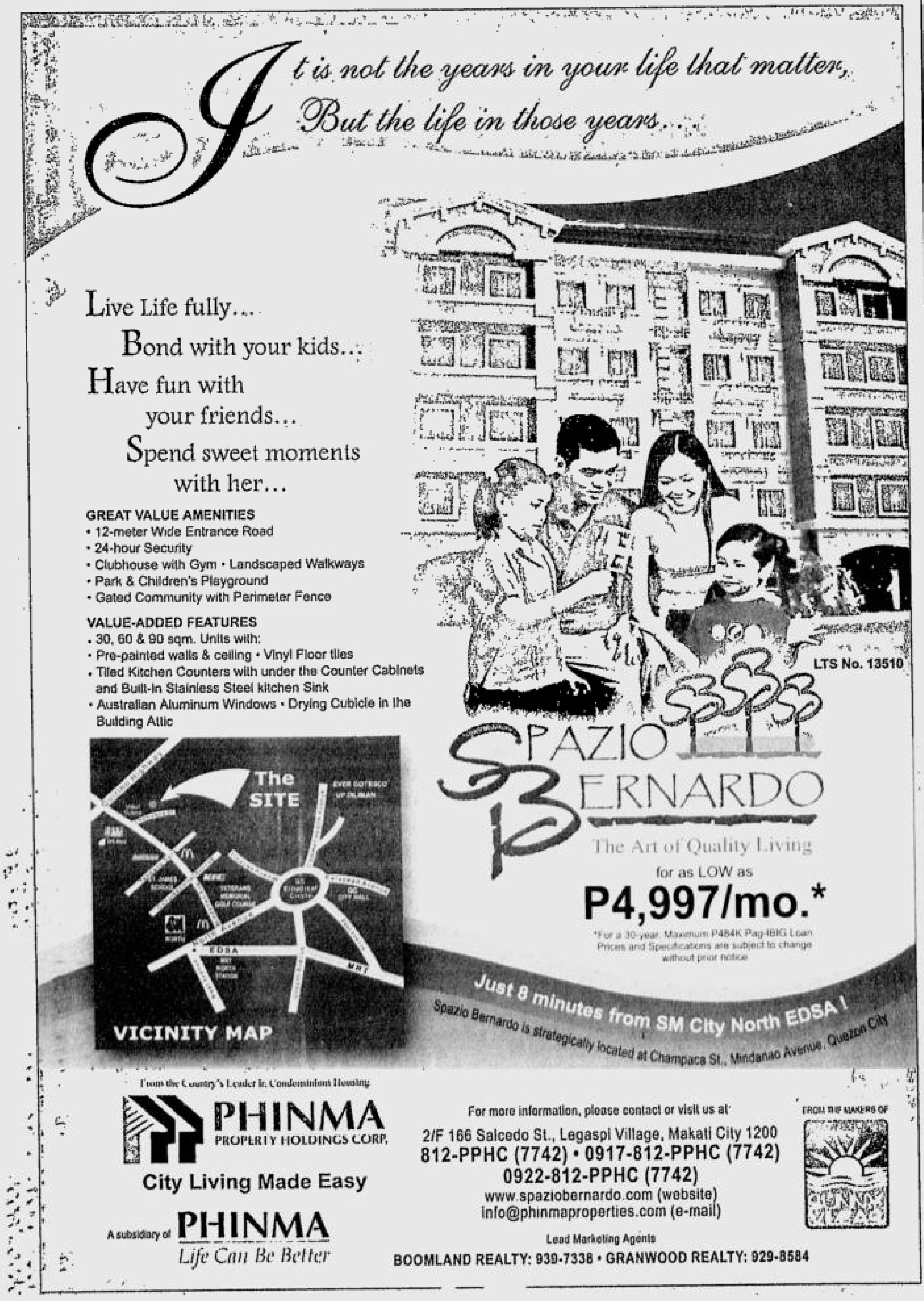

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World leaders demand greater role for UN at high-level summit

UNITED NATIONS—WORLD LEADERS nearing the end of a three-day summit urged the United Nations to play a bigger role on the world stage—in everything from the fight against terrorism to easing the crunch caused by high oil prices.

After the last speeches on Friday, the 191 UN member states will adopt a document that takes a step toward revamping the United Nations to meet the challenges of the 21st century and adds new impetus to helping lift poor countries out of poverty. But bitter disagreements meant that many of its most substantive measures had to be left out.

While those disagreements were playing out in the General Assembly chamber, attention was largely focused elsewhere: Iran's president said his country was willing to provide nuclear technology to other Muslim states. Arab-Israeli relations took another positive step after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza with a meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel and Qatar. And a UN treaty to fight global corruption got its 30th ratification, triggering its entry into force in 90 days.

Between news conferences Thursday by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin and various nongovernmental organizations, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez scolded US evangelist Pat Robertson for calling for his assassination and criticized the US government for the Iraq war, which he called illegal.

Chavez suggested that the United Nations headquarters be moved to Jerusalem because President George W. Bush attacked Saddam Hussein's government without UN authorization.

"The proposal has the merit of providing a response to the conflict experienced by Palestine, but it may be difficult to bring about," Chavez said in a speech that earned him the heartiest applause of the 80 leaders to speak so far.

If Chavez's fiery speech showed a disdain for the United States, it also showed his fondness for the United Nations, something many other leaders readily shared.

The president of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, went further than most when she suggested the United Nations take the lead in easing the effects of high oil prices, She said it should study oil rationing and conservation, as well as consider initiatives to fuel engines with coconut oil and convert cane sugar to ethanol.

China's President Hu Jintao and Russia's President Vladimir Putin made clear they want the United Nations to help coordinate the fight against terrorism.

"The United Nations, as the core of the collective security mechanism, plays an irreplaceable role in international cooperation to ensure global security," Hu said. "Such a role can only be strengthened and must not in any way be weakened."

Those demands highlighted that, while Washington and others want serious reform before the UN tackles new challenges, the United Nations' image is still strong in much of the world and some nations want it to take on more responsibility now.

Yet while many leaders extolled the world body, they also dwelt on their own diplomats' failure on key issues in the run-up to the summit, including UN Security Council reform and achieving eight goals to alleviate poverty and illness worldwide.

Leaders stressed repeatedly that more needs to be done toward progress on the Millennium Development Goals, though major differences remained on what to do, and who should pay. *AP*

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N. Zealand election too close to call

CLARK AP

WELLINGTON—NEW ZEALAND Prime Minister Helen Clark and National opposition leader Don Brash embarked on a frantic final day of campaigning on Friday before an election which opinion polls suggested was too close to call.

Polls over the past week have pointed to one of the closest ballots in the country's history, forcing candidates from the Labour-led government and National out on to the streets to eke out the last possible vote.

"It's very positive, but we're not leaving any stone unturned, we're out there chasing votes right to the last minute," Labour's Health Minister Annette King told Reuters.

A Herald-DigiPoll survey of 1,000 people published on Friday had Clark's center-left government ahead with 44.6 percent support, compared with 37.4 percent for National.

Other polls and bookmakers have National ahead after former central bank governor Brash campaigned strongly on promises of personal income tax cuts to be funded from forecast surpluses.

But Brash admitted during a debate with Clark on Thursday he might have to change "minor details" of his NZ$9 billion ($6.4 billion) tax plan in order to attract crucial coalition partners.

"That would take some of the wind out of the sails of the people who were voting almost purely on the tax issue," said Auckland University political scientist Ray Miller, who described the election as "too difficult to call."

Clark appeared to score points over Brash in the televised debate after he admitted that he might scrap New Zealand's 20-year ban on nuclear ships in favor of a free trade deal with the United States.

He said he would not change the popular anti-nuclear policy, a point of independence for New Zealand, without a referendum.

"The possibility of a referendum would be enough to scare a lot of New Zealanders," Miller told Reuters.

The policy has resonated with New Zealanders since it came into force in 1985, the year French agents blew up the Greenpeace anti-nuclear flagship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbor, killing one crew member.

The policy caused a decade-long diplomatic rift with the United States.

Brash was undeterred as he barnstormed New Zealand's three largest cities of Auckland, Christchurch and the capital Wellington on Friday.

"I believe there's at least a reasonable prospect that National could form a government after the election if we can be the larger of the two parties on the night," he told Reuters.

A final updated Reuters survey of the four leading polls showed Labour ahead with 41.3 percent, exactly the same percentage of the vote it won when it was returned to power in the 2002 election.

National was on 38.1 percent, well up from the 20.9 percent of the vote it won in 2002, but at the expense of minor parties such as the right-wing ACT which would be expected to support the center-right party in any coalition to form a government. *Reuters*

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More American women experimenting with same sex encounters, says poll

CHICAGO—MORE AMERICAN women—particularly those in their late teens and 20s—are experimenting with bisexuality or at least feel more comfortable reporting same-sex encounters, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The survey, released Thursday by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, found that 11.5 percent of women, ages 18 to 44, said they've had at least one sexual experience with another women in their lifetimes, compared with about 4 percent of women, ages 18 to 59, who said the same in a comparable survey a decade earlier.

For women in their late teens and 20s, the percentage rose to 14 percent in the more recent survey. About 6 percent of men in their teens and 20s said they'd had at least one same-sex encounter.

While those who conducted the survey took measures to protect respondents' privacy, researchers say it's unclear whether the figure for men was lower because they're are more likely to avoid same-sex experiences or whether they're not reporting them.

It wouldn't surprise Kat Fowler, a 27-year-old art student who dates both women and men, if men were less likely to talk about their experiences.

"There's a certain higher level of discrimination (for men). It's a lot easier for women to have these kinds of experiences and be open about it because it's more accepted," said Fowler, who attends the University of Florida.

The findings on bisexuality and other aspects of Americans' sexual habits were taken from the National Survey of Family Growth, which included 12,571 in-person interviews, done from March 2002 to March 2003. Overall, researchers said the report shows that most people have relatively few partners and are at a low risk for sexually transmitted diseases.

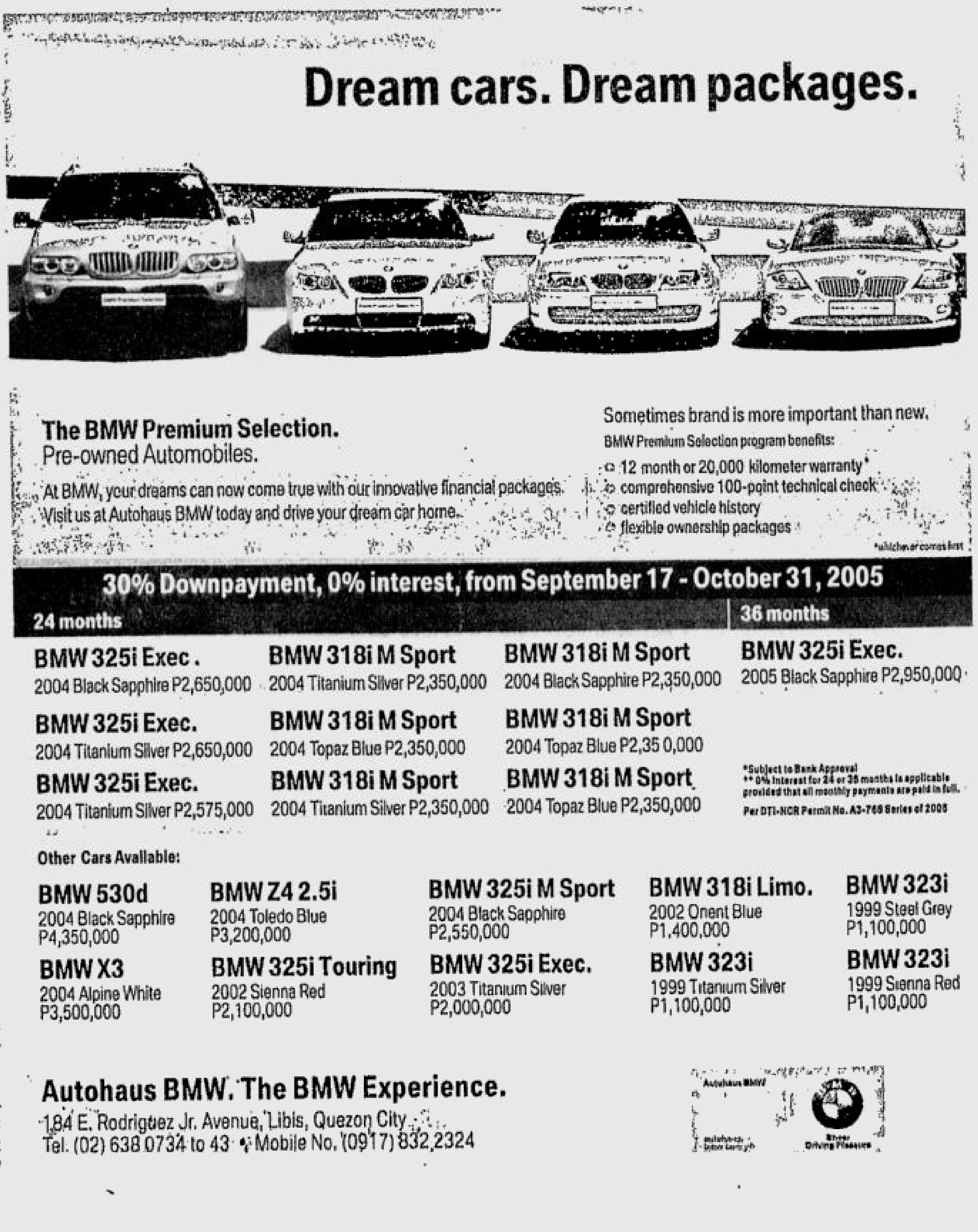
"Instead of just anecdotes and stories that raise people's anxieties, I think it's best to have real numbers," said William Mosher, the statistician who oversaw the report, "And now we have those."

When it comes to women and same-sex relationships, Mosher said it would be worth studying why young women seek such relationships, and whether they may be trying to avoid diseases more commonly spread through sex with men.

But some experts who study sexuality say it's even more likely that many college students simply see experimentation as a rite of passage.

"It's very safe in the academic community; no one thinks anything of it," said Elayne Rapping, a professor of American studies at the University of Buffalo who has written about sexuality.

"But to some extent there's more talk than action," she added, noting that the bisexuality label has become a "badge of courage" for some college women, even those who only date men, Meanwhile, she said, men who have same-sex experiences are often less likely to talk about it publicly. *AP*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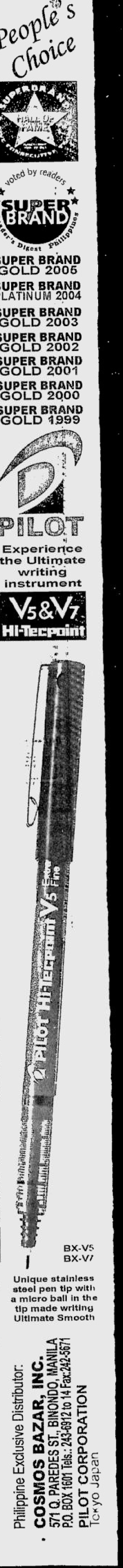
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Bush pleads guilty for disarray after Katrina

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA—PRESIDENT George W. Bush again took the blame for the government's flawed response to Hurricane Katrina on Thursday but promised one of the biggest rebuilding efforts the world has ever seen in the disaster zone.

As the US leader promised a drastic safety review for every US city, the New Orleans' mayor said residents could start returning to the stricken city this weekend.

"The system, at every level of government, was not well coordinated, and was overwhelmed in the first few days," Bush said in a prime-time speech to the nation from Jackson Square in New Orleans' historic French Quarter.

Setting out a recovery plan from the destructive Aug. 29 storm for which the death toll reached 792 on Thursday, Bush said: "Four years after the frightening experience of Sept. 11, Americans have every right to expect a more effective response in a time of emergency.

"When the federal government fails to meet such an obligation, I as president am responsible for the problem, and for the solution."

Bush ordered a sweeping review of disaster-response plans in every major US city. "I consider detailed emergency planning to be a national security priority," Bush said.

The president gave no detail how much on top of the $62 billion allotted by Congress, but vowed: "The work that has begun in the Gulf Coast region will be one of the largest reconstruction efforts the world has ever seen."

Amid criticism of the treatment of New Orleans' poor blacks who made up the majority of the tens of thousands stranded in the city, Bush made a point of emphasizing that special help had to be given to African-Americans in the rebuilding.

With the cleanup gathering pace—though not all bodies found—New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said business owners could start to return to the city from Saturday.

"The city of New Orleans, starting this weekend, will start to breathe again," Nagin told a press conference.

"We will have life. We will have commerce. We will have people getting back into their normal modes of operation."

He added that about 180,000 residents would start returning in a phased operation from Monday.

In a phased return, authorities would concentrate on the famed French Quarter and central districts as they bid to reopen the city and a dusk-to-dawn curfew would remain.

Nagin said hospitals and special food shops would be opened and he was confident power and water supplies would be ready, though he warned that in many places the water should not be drunk or used for washing.

The number of people in emergency shelters across the United States has fallen 30,000 in four days to 111,000, authorities said. And the Army expressed confidence that an operation to drain floodwater from the streets would be finished by Oct. 2, well ahead of the original schedule.

"It's a good day in New Orleans," the mayor declared in an upbeat mood. "The sun is shining. We're bringing New Orleans back."

Bush was back in the region for the fourth time since the storm, as his popularity plumbed new lows, to make his proposals to rebuild the disaster zone across Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Katrina has further damaged the US president's standing, already hit by the Iraq war.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released Thursday showed that just 40 percent of those interviewed approved of his overall performance as president, the lowest level since he took office in January 2001. Nearly 60 percent said they were unhappy with the Bush administration's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Louisiana officials added 84 to the state's toll taking it to 558 dead. In addition there have been 218 deaths in Mississippi, two in Alabama and 14 in Florida.

Nagin warned Wednesday that more hideous discoveries will come out of the search of abandoned houses as the floodwaters recede.

Louisiana Attorney General Charles Foti has pressed negligent homicide charges against two owners of a New Orleans nursing home, where the bodies of 34 people were found.

Another grim find of 45 corpses was made on Sunday at a New Orleans hospital and a special task force has been set up to investigate some of the deaths reported.

While New Orleans made faltering steps toward recovery, Hurricane Ophelia, the seventh of the hurricane season, inflicted floods and power cuts on about 100,000 people in North Carolina on the Atlantic coast. *AFP*

TEN-YEAR-OLD Conrad Burrus stands in the winds from Hurricane Ophelia in Buxton, N.C., Sept. 15.

AP/THE NEWS & OBSERVER, TED RICHARDSON

Ophelia drenches N. Carolina

NAGS HEAD, NORTH CAROLINA—THE snail-paced Ophelia, downgraded from hurricane to tropical storm, moved out to sea early Friday after a three-day drenching that was far less severe than many had anticipated.

Coastal residents to the south, where the storm's gusty wind ripped apart businesses and damaged homes, were hit hardest.

"It just beat us and beat us and beat us," said Laurie Garner, whose boyfriend's restaurant was severely damaged at Salter Path on Bogue Banks, south of the Outer Banks.

While the storm's center was expected to stay just off shore, the ring of high wind surrounding the eye could remain over the Outer Banks until midday Friday, the National Hurricane Center said.

Gov. Mike Easley said gauging the scope of the damage was difficult because of the storm's slow path, first affecting the state's southeastern coast on Tuesday and then crawling north and east Wednesday and Thursday.

"It's almost like working three different storms," Easley said.

Ophelia was downgraded to a tropical storm and its sustained winds dropped to 105 kph, the hurricane center said early Friday.

More than 12,000 homes and businesses remained without power late Thursday in eastern North Carolina, utilities said, down from a high of more than 200,000 overnight. But the mainland hasn't seen the severe flooding many feared would devastate the coastal interior.

"I've been coming down here for 25 years—this is nothing," said Tim Kifer, 51, of Chicago, who stopped by a marina in Manteo to check out the waters of Roanoke Sound.

A moment later, a jogger plodded by along the docks, seemingly oblivious to the hurricane swirling off the coast.

Some decided to take advantage of the churning surf to have a little fun.

David Goddard, 58, of Ashburn, Virginia, stood on the beach in Nags Head, watching his 32-year-old son Josh wade into the foamy water up to his calves.

"He's fearless," Goddard said with a grin.

The storm was blamed for one traffic death. Earlier, a surfer disappeared in rough water off the coast of South Carolina.

On the Outer Banks, Dare County officials said Hatteras Island reported gusts to 153 kph. Other than power outages, the island was in pretty good shape, county spokesperson Sharon Sullivan said.

Ocean water was not expected to wash over the islands, although coastal storm surge flooding of 1.2-1.8 meters above normal tide was expected, along with large and battering waves. *AP*

Once unimaginable: Foreign aid to US

JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS—BABY FOOD from Israel. Blankets from Egypt and India. Tents from Russia. Unicef school supplies sent via Denmark. Generators from China. Rice from Thailand. Bottled water and detergent from Tunisia.

The Little Rock Air Force Base has become the US clearinghouse for an extraordinary international outpouring of relief supplies for Hurricane Katrina's victims.

The hub presents a once-unimaginable spectacle: the richest, most powerful country in the world receiving foreign aid.

The relief supplies are flown into Jacksonville by the various countries. From there, the goods are unloaded by Air Force personnel, catalogued, warehoused and then dispatched by tractor-trailer to the places along the battered Gulf Coast that need them. The Federal Emergency Management Agency decides what goes where and when.

The work is being coordinated by Chris Weeks, a logistics expert at DHL International, the overnight delivery service. DHL was hired by the US government.

Six months ago, Weeks was in Sri Lanka to assist after the Asian tsunami killed thousands and left thousands more homeless.

Sri Lanka and Little Rock "are definitely different, but the climate is not that different, the products coming in are not that different, and some of the logistical issues are really quite similar," Weeks said.

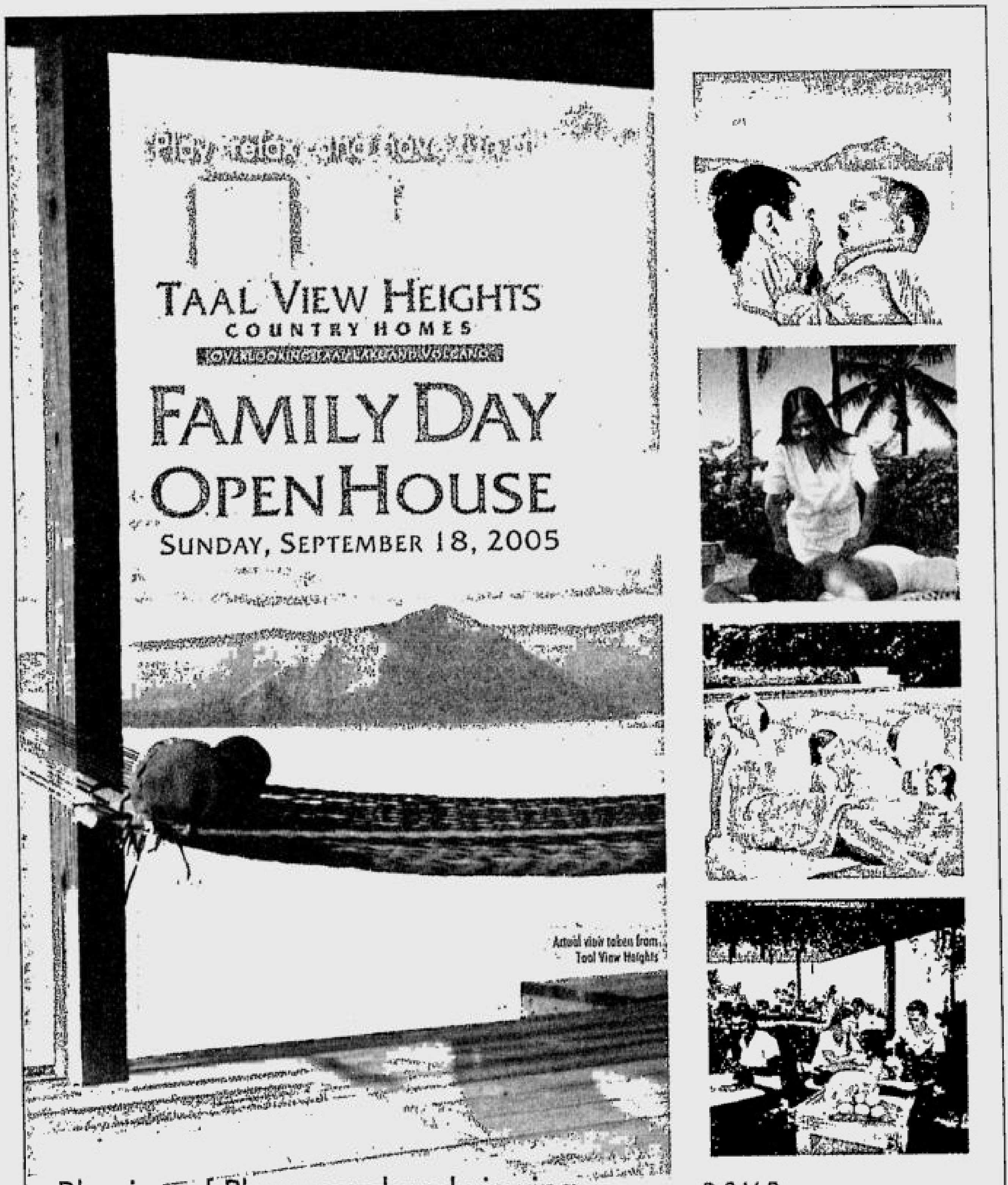
"This is the reverse situation, though. It's usually the US sending out to developing countries," Weeks said.

The Little Rock base is home to the 314th Airlift Wing and was selected as the nation's depot for international aid because it is relatively close to the Gulf Coast disaster zone—483 kilometers away—but far enough away to have escaped damage from the storm.

FEMA put out a list of what items were needed in the disaster zone, and foreign countries responded according to what they could offer.

On a recent day, an Israeli cargo jet sat bracketed by Egyptian and Russian planes on the same tarmac, all unloading hundreds of tons of food rations, baby formula, tents and other items. Flights were scheduled to arrive this week from Peru, Finland, Romania, Chile, South Korea, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Greece.

"We've been working a lot of hours, but it's worth it to be part of something this big, this important," Air Force Lt. Jon Quinlan said. *AP*



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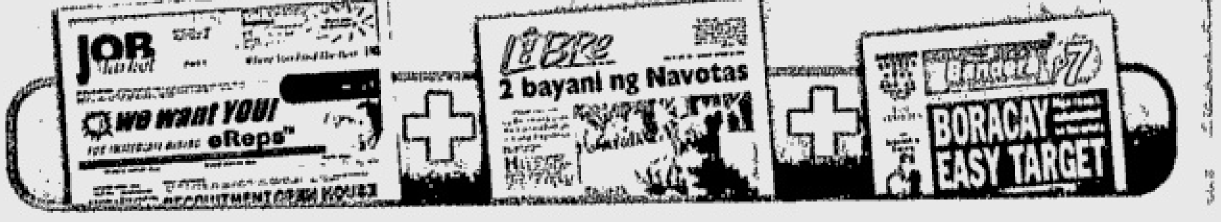

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Fourth Indonesian dies from bird flu

JAKARTA—INDONESIA ON FRIDAY confirmed its fourth death from bird flu as international concern mounts that the virus could mutate into a major killer.

Health officials said tests showed that a woman who died last week in Jakarta was infected with the virus.

The woman, 37, died at a private hospital in South Jakarta Saturday evening after being admitted on Sept. 6 in a serious condition.

"Yes it's confirmed," Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari told AFP. She declined to give further details.

Blood samples had been sent to Hong Kong for testing.

The latest death brought to 63 the number of people in Southeast Asia known to have died from the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus since 2003. Indonesia now has the same number of reported bird flu deaths as Cambodia. Vietnam has recorded 43 and Thailand 12.

Health ministry spokesperson Sumardi told AFP that officials still did not know how the latest victim became infected. They were continuing to investigate and monitor the health of people she had contact with, Sumardi said.

Supari said blood samples had been taken from people known to have contact with the deceased.

One of them was suspected to have been infected but remained healthy, she said, declining to give details.

The minister said health officials had not found any indications that the virus had undergone a mutation that would allow human-to-human transmission.

"We are doing lab tests to determine whether there has been a change in the pattern of transmission but so far that's not the case," she said.

Supari has said the victim's work involved "taking care of immigration documents."

An auditor and his two young daughters died in suburban Jakarta in July. The government said infected chicken droppings were suspected to have caused those deaths.

Jakarta launched a massive vaccination drive against the disease but has been criticized for carrying out only limited culls.

The World Health Organization (WHO) requires that poultry within a radius of 3 kilometers from any bird flu outbreak be killed.

Steven Bjorge, a medical officer with the WHO in Indonesia, said earlier in the week that culling was "very complicated" in Indonesia as statistics suggested 70 to 80 percent of about 1.2 billion chickens in the country were backyard birds.

"The notion that we can easily cull ... is almost impossible to implement at this moment," Bjorge said.

WHO chief Lee Jong-wook issued a new warning about avian flu on Thursday, reiterating that the virus could mutate into a major killer.

At present, the H5N1 strain of bird flu, harbored by wild migrating birds and poultry flocks, is lethal for humans but is not very contagious, nor can it be easily transmitted from person to person.

The WHO's biggest fear is that H5N1 may mutate, acquiring genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious as well as lethal.

US President George W. Bush and French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, speaking at the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, called for international mobilization against avian influenza, which has already resulted in the cull of millions of chickens along with the human deaths in Southeast Asia.

"If left unchallenged, this virus could become the first pandemic of the 21st century," Bush said.

US Health Secretary Mike Leavitt said Thursday he would next month lead a delegation to Southeast Asia, where half of the 112 people affected by the disease had died, for talks with government leaders to seek "their critical involvement and personal commitment to preparedness and response."

AFP

WANG AFP

Asia's richest woman wins battle for late hubby's empire

HONG KONG—ASIA'S RICHEST WOMAN ON Friday won an eight-year legal battle with her father-in-law for control of her dead husband's multibillion-dollar real estate empire.

Nina Wang, a charismatic businesswoman known for her colorful wardrobe and unusual haircuts, won a unanimous ruling from Hong Kong's five-member Court of Final Appeal granting her the $3.5-billion Chinachem conglomerate.

The judges overturned a lower court judgment that she had forged the will of her husband, Teddy Wang Teh-huei, shortly before he was kidnapped in 1990 and vanished without a trace.

They ruled there was no real cause for suspicion that the document was a fake, as her 94-year-old father-in-law Wang Din-shin had claimed throughout the eight-year legal saga.

The case featured all the stuff of TV melodrama, with kidnappings, allegations of infidelity and mystery attacks, that kept the story of the bitter family dispute bubbling on the front pages of Hong Kong's newspapers.

Teddy Wang was kidnapped in 1990 but although the family paid $60 million in ransom, he was never seen again. His body was never found, and he was legally declared dead nine years later.

Nina Wang had long insisted her husband was still alive and would someday return to her.

The case turned on one key issue, whether the 1990 will naming her as the sole beneficiary was a forgery.

Two other wills were presented in court. The earliest, dated 1960, split the estate equally between Teddy's father and his wife.

A 1968 version, whose authenticity was challenged and which was allegedly made after Teddy discovered his wife was having an affair, gave the entire estate to his father.

In Friday's ruling, the appeal court dismissed the lower court's suspicions of Wang's behavior and the finding that the 1990 will was forged.

One of the judges, Lord Scott of Foscote, said Wang's conduct since 1990 had been consistent with "a distraught lady whose husband had suffered an unknown fate."

"I would have been more condemnatory about a father-in-law," who remained outwardly friendly with Wang while filing aggressive legal proceedings accusing her of fraud, the judge said.

"We are obviously delighted with the verdict. Mrs. Wang is happy. Her initial reaction was relief," Wang's lawyer Brian Gilchrist told reporters outside court.

Neither Wang, 68, nor her father-in-law were in court for the judgment.

Wang Din-shin's lawyer, Albert Tsang, said: "I'm deeply disappointed and very surprised. It's the end of the road as far as Hong Kong litigation is concerned."

In January this year, Wang was formally charged with forgery but released on bail of HK$55 million ($7.1 million), the largest bail in city history.

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Playing catch-up

EDITORIAL

SO YOU WANT TO SET UP A BUSINESS IN THE Philippines? Then be prepared to hurdle what could possibly be one of the toughest and longest obstacle courses invented by man.

According to a recent study done by the World Bank and the International Finance Corp., its private sector development arm, a would-be entrepreneur must take a total of 23 steps—mostly securing licenses and business permits—before he can open a business in this country. And if that list of requirements is longer than the East Asia Pacific average of 17 steps, naturally the time they take to accomplish them is also much longer: 197 days compared to the regional average of 153 days.

Still interested? Then consider the profits you can actually put into your pocket. If yours is a small- or medium-scale enterprise, you have to share 46.4 percent of your gross profit with the government in the form of taxes and fees. (And that doesn't include yet the increase in the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent from 32 percent that forms part of the new expanded value-added tax which has not been implemented yet.) That tax take ranks way up there among the highest in the region where the average is only 31.2 percent.

Of course, there's a way to make a bigger pile. You can bribe your way around so you can get huge reductions in the taxes and fees you pay or simply just evade payment and hope you don't get caught. Such practices are fairly common in some of the poorest countries since the high tax rates and fees they impose make evasion more tempting and rewarding. In the Philippines, because of tax evasion and corruption tax collections have been lagging far behind government expenditures, raising the country's total debt to nearly unmanageable proportions.

The huge tax bite, the numerous requirements and the red tape are the major contributing factors that put the Philippines way down on No. 113 in a ranking of 155 countries based on the ease of doing business. But these are not the only reasons foreign investors are not rushing to put their money in the country. A separate study done by the Asian Development Bank shows the risks of doing business in the country have risen sharply since the 1997 Asian financial crisis. The higher risks have been brought about by chronic government budget deficits, the growing influence of vested interests in Congress and the judiciary and the government's inability to create a level playing field. The high costs of power and labor are also "key factors" that make it difficult to do business here, the ADB report said.

All these negative factors have contributed to a drastic fall in investments, particularly foreign investments. The ADB noted that gross domestic investment fell to 18.3 percent of the gross national product in 2002 from 23.8 percent in 1998. Foreign direct investments, on the other hand, sharply declined from $2.1 billion in 1999 to only $100 million in 2003.

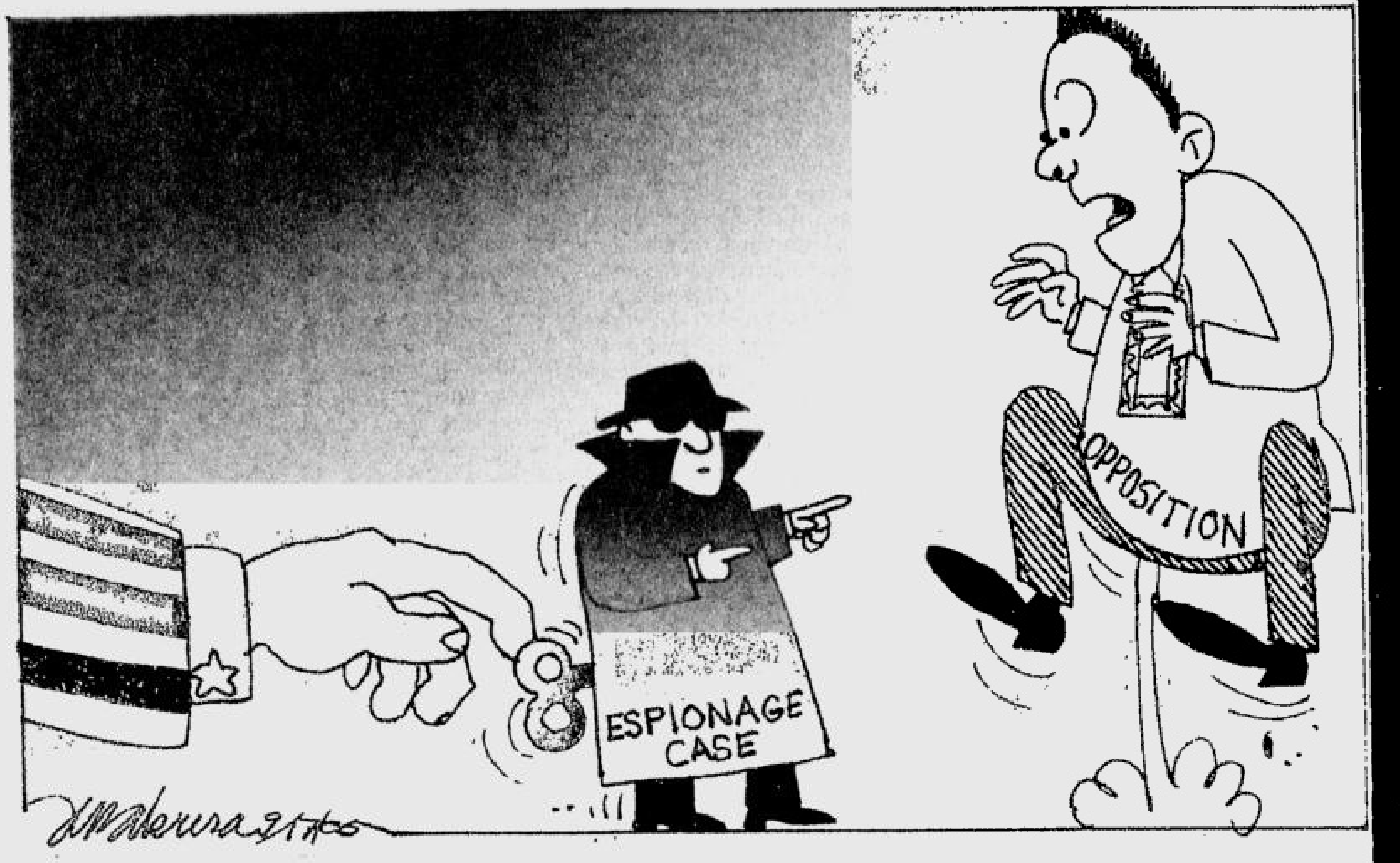
"For foreign investors, the perceived risks of doing business in the Philippines are rising, encouraging them to seek alternative investment destinations," the ADB noted.

This year, however, there seems to be a sharp reversal in the downward spiral of foreign investments. During the first semester, according to the Bangko Sentral, foreign direct investments surged to $495 million, almost three times the investments made in the same period last year.

Still, what the country is getting are mere trickles compared to the amounts pouring to neighboring countries. Last year, for instance, foreign investors poured $1.7 billion into Vietnam, $2 billion into Malaysia, $5 billion into Singapore and $61 billion into China.

Obviously, we have a lot of catching up to do. But getting more foreign investments cannot just be wished. The recent studies done by two international financial institutions clearly identify the areas where reforms are most needed to lessen the risks to investors and make investing in the Philippines more attractive to foreign companies. Some may be very difficult to manage, like lowering labor and power costs. But there are others that can be done with some remedial legislation and, more importantly, lots of political will—cutting red tape, plugging tax loopholes and stopping corruption, for instance.

But can a wounded presidency and an administration desperately trying to survive still summon the will or even have the energy left to do even the most obvious reforms? President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent decisions, particularly her latest appointments, offer little hope that her administration will do more than just muddle through in the weeks and months ahead.



An irreverent imposture

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MANY PEOPLE MAY BE WONDERING WHY the impeachment movement did not succeed despite the serious complaints filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo that practically demolished the constitutional presumption of innocence in her favor. Below are some possible reasons, generally known or simply imagined, most of them innocent and others devious, or vice versa.

The first is that there were many people who were rabidly pro-Gloria regardless of the pros and cons of the impeachment complaints. They didn't care or know what the issues were and were concerned only that their idol was being unjustly accused by her unpatriotic enemies. She was being harassed and prevented from doing her important work as President of the Philippines. This favorite daughter of Pampanga, and their prided townmate in Lubao, deserved their continuing support as loyal followers of her departed father and, by extension, his political heiress.

The second is that the members of the Rainbow Coalition of Speaker Jose de Venecia, who is dreaming of becoming prime minister if the Constitution is amended, believed that their political future would be assured if La Gloria was protected against the pro-impeachers and thus be able to insure their Speaker's conditional ambition. Moreover, some of them belong to GMA's own political party, whatever it is now, and so felt duty-bound to follow her by rote as in the children's game of follow-the-leader. The allegiance of these legislators was dictated by party discipline which they obediently allowed to think and decide for them.

There were others who refused to toe the line, and this is where the rules became tougher. Faced with rebellion in the ranks, the party leaders employed the carrot-and-stick approach to whip them into obedience. The method was generally effective because legislators are easy to threaten or to please.

Those who originally wavered were tantalized with early release of their pork barrel allocations or special accommodations like the reduction of the purchase price of lots for a solon's constituents or the promised revocation of the prohibition against the importation of used cars in Subic to placate another representative. Some would include here the rumored bonanza given to all GMA loyalists amounting to millions of pesos from the public coffers. There were also appointments of their relatives as ambassadors and board directors that were offered or threatened to be withdrawn depending on their loyalty or lack of it to Malacañang.

The media also had a field day among its less upright members who were amply rewarded for every line of approval for the besieged President. Editorial writers, columnists, reporters, television and radio announcers enjoyed Christmas in September for commercializing their convictions. Some say that favorable headlines and feature articles for GMA were granted generous bonuses. Opinion-makers with spouses and other relatives serving at the pleasure of the President campaigned for her, or at least held their punches, for the sake of their captive families.

Expect some of the above-discussed members of the administration claque to enjoy the fruits of their loyalty to the President during the current recess. More than 50 of them have already flown to New York on "official business" to watch her preside at the Security Council. Their perquisites include hefty dollar allowances, perhaps now even specially increased, and lodgings at swank hotels like the Hilton at government expense.

There were those independent representatives who voted as their conscience and considered judgment advised them without hope or fear of a quid pro quo. They sincerely believed that the charges against President Arroyo were mere inventions of the opposition aimed to restore them to power at the cost of the nation's welfare. The Garci tapes were edited to place GMA in a bad light; the *jueteng* payola had not been proved. The witnesses against her had been discredited or had recanted, and even the bishops had given up.

Others may not have been similarly convinced but voted for her just the same because they felt that although the evidence against her sounded convincing, impeaching and removing her from office might be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. The fire would be Noli de Castro. The Vice President is generally regarded as incompetent because of his limited academic preparation and political experience. Moreover, he would be a stooge under the control of his Lopez bosses at ABS-CBN where he is still a paid employee. Ms Arroyo might be a calamity but they feared De Castro would be a catastrophe.

The horn-blowers of the Arroyo administration have described the vote of the 158 opponents of the impeachment movement as the voice of the people, which is the voice of God. This is rank blasphemy. To describe those questionable members of the House of Representatives as speaking for the Almighty is a sacrilegious pomposity and an irreverent imposture. Their questionable conduct at their plenary session on Sept. 6, makes their voice certainly not *vox Dei* but more like *vox diaboli*.

Troubling questions on Aquino case

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

L'AFFAIRE MICHAEL RAY AQUINO IS FASCINATING because it raises so many questions, the answers to some of which have to provide valuable insights into the workings of some very important government institutions and individuals. These become doubly relevant in a situation where the need to strengthen all government institutions is constantly being emphasized, and where sanctimony is at dangerously high levels.

The first set of questions have to do with the former and current national-level public officials who, according to the FBI charges, were the recipients of the classified ("secret") information that were downloaded from the FBI computers by its employee Leandro Aragoncillo and passed on to Aquino (whose nickname, per one newspaper report, is "Ninoy"—good grief).

It is amusing that although these three officials are still to be identified by the FBI sometime next week, already five—two former national officials (former President Joseph Estrada and former Sen. Francisco Tatad) and three current ones (Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Rep. Roilo Golez)—have stood up to be recognized, or two more than the FBI number. Which of them, if any, will be the ones identified next week, we still do not know. But at least the three current national public officials have "acknowledged" (notice how the word "admitted" is not used) that they received e-mail communications from either Aquino or Aragoncillo or both, although they discount the importance of their subject matter.

Questions, nevertheless, arise. First, Michael Ray Aquino left (some would say escaped from) the Philippines some time in 2001, while he was holding a senior position in the Philippine National Police. His name had appeared time and again not only in regard to the Kuratong Baleleng Massacre, but in regard to the murders of publicist Bubby Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito. The people he contacted are also government officials, and know that the government, or at least the PNP, must have been looking for him (if only because he left without official sanction). So did these officials alert the PNP that Aquino had touched base with them? If not, why not? Did they at least remind Aquino that his duty was to advise his agency of his whereabouts and explain his sudden disappearance? If not, why not? Were they aiding and abetting someone who was making fools of his colleagues, or was it a lapse in judgment on their part?

And what about the nature of the communications that they received? Did they know the source, or at least suspect where it came from, given the position of Aragoncillo with the FBI? As government officials, do not ethical, if not legal, considerations require that they either tell their sources to cease and desist from breaking the (US) law, or at least turn over the information they receive to appropriate Philippine government authorities? Didn't they care that laws were being broken, or was it another lapse in judgment on their part?

Then there is a second set of questions, this time addressed to the PNP. Exactly what is the status of Michael Ray Aquino? When he left the Philippines, if one recalls, he was on active duty as a senior officer in that agency. Is he now considered AWOL? If he is, how long can one stay AWOL without being automatically dismissed from the service for dereliction of duty?

When Aquino was arrested in March this year by US immigration authorities, it made the local newspapers. Did the PNP attempt to get in touch with Aquino, to summon him back to explain his absence or show cause why he should not be sanctioned? If not, why not?

Moreover, our consul in New York reveals that Aquino has a valid Philippine passport, which he had recently renewed, meaning that the story that he left the country using a fake passport was wrong. But if he was using a valid passport, that also means that being a government employee (I should know [illegible] UP faculty, I am one), he had to obtain permission from his head of agency to leave the country. And if he obtained permission, that means the PNP knew where he was going. Why then did the PNP claim to have been taken completely unawares by his disappearance?

Of course, it could be that the PNP really did not know anything—in which case, the only way Aquino could have left the country would be if our immigration authorities allowed him to leave without proper documentation (the paper showing authorization from his boss to travel), which of course turns the spotlight on the BID.

And while we're at it, there's a question that has to be addressed to the Department of Foreign Affairs. While there seems to have been no legal impediment to renewing Aquino's passport, the DFA must have been aware of the notoriety surrounding him. Why was there no attempt to inform the PNP that a senior official whom they presumably were trying to locate had been in fact located?

But the most searching question is reserved for the Supreme Court. My information is that this august (pronounced oh-GUST, please) body granted Aquino's request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) that would prevent him (and presumably his co-accused) from being arrested on the Dacer murder charges. This was way back in 2001 or thereabouts, and it effectively prevented the DOJ from filing extradition charges in the United States. Question: How long is the Supreme Court going to sit on that TRO? It's been four years, after all!

An intriguing connection?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PROMINENT OPPOSITION FIGURES are now beside themselves trying to explain the series of exchanges between them and fugitive Michael Ray Aquino and FBI employee Leandro Aragoncillo, who were both arrested recently in the United States allegedly for espionage against the US government. Aquino was one of two police officers and close aides of Sen. Panfilo Lacson when he was still chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force who fled to the United States when the Kuratong Baleleng exploded into a full-blown multiple murder and robbery case. Aquino's name came up frequently during the Senate hearings four years ago on the PAOCTF's questionable activities, where Mary "Rosebud" Ong and several other witnesses testified.

* * *

When the recent story broke out about the arrest of Aquino and Aragoncillo and the implication of several top Filipino opposition leaders with them, one of them asserted that all he got from Aquino was a greeting card on his birthday. But then Aquino is not the sort of fellow who routinely sends a person a greeting card.

It would be interesting to see how this espionage case will play out. A political pundit who has a lively imagination noted that the exchange of communications between the US-based duo and the Pinoy politicos traces back to September last year. He expressed the popular theory going around in the coffee shops that the linkup could be all about the grand conspiracy against GMA that exploded last June with the sudden appearance of the doctored Garci tapes. It could be a spy thriller worthy of Hollywood.

* * *

Last July, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines gave GMA the benefit of the doubt amid the opposition's allegation that she had committed fraud to win the elections. Earlier this week, the CBCP's permanent council declared that there was no reason to reverse that stand, although it said the search for truth must continue, just as GMA has to continue looking into her own heart. Encouraged doubtless by that advice to continue the search for truth, the Parish Pastoral Council on Responsible Voting (PPCRV) has asked the Commission on Elections to open the ballots in the May 2004 elections.

I can see in this move the influence of retired Bishop Teodoro Bacani, who has been openly against GMA, over former Ambassador Henrietta de Villa, who headed the PPCRV in the last elections. The PPCRV's call obviously follows the opposition line that there is proof of election fraud in the tampered Garci tapes. But the problem is that this goes against the reports of hundreds of religious volunteers last May 2004, which said the elections were generally peaceful, honest and credible in their respective turfs. The PPCRV grass-roots reports, in turn, became the basis of the CBCP's statement that the elections were honest and credible nationwide.

* * *

The opposition offers various reasons for its failure to capture the 79 votes to send the impeachment complaint against GMA to the Senate. The most convenient was to accuse her of bribing House members with multimillion-peso projects. Doubtless this tactic was employed. If to pass an important legislation all manner of persuasion is resorted to by administrations all over the world, not the least the United States, how much more by a President fighting for her political life? But having personally known many of the House members from way back when they were starting their political careers, I don't think the pork barrel figured that much among the veteran lawmakers who are virtual kingpins in their own turf. Perhaps it worked among the neophytes, but other factors ensured the opposition's defeat.

* * *

First, there were the serious blunders the opposition committed. It had relied earlier on street rallies to oust GMA, following what it thought was her certain downfall last July 8. But few responded to their call and instead, GMA consolidated support with the help of key allies, including President Fidel Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia, majority of the Lakas, LP, NP and NPC congressmen, and the governors and mayors. Failing in the street protests, the opposition filed its amended complaint in the House, but Oliver Lozano's complaint was already there a month ahead. The principle that only one complaint can be entertained in one year under the Constitution was interminably argued in the House, but in the end the majority of the lawmakers agreed as well as the thinking sectors of society.

* * *

The fact that the opposition filed an "amended" complaint showed that it recognized the one-year bar, despite the efforts of some articulate young congressmen to prove the contrary. What happened was that when the opposition realized the Lozano complaint was likely to be upheld, following GMA lawyer Pedro Ferrer's quick response to it, the opposition tried to piggyback its "amended" complaint to Lozano's.

Another mistake was that they packed their complaint with so many new issues against GMA, such as the North Rail and Naia 3 projects, human rights violations and the Arroyos' properties abroad, which did not link GMA directly or which had taken place before her term. It is hard to understand why the brilliant minds in the opposition prepared what Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin called a "most inefficient" complaint.

* * *

Then, as Mandaluyong Rep. Ben-Hur Abalos, who defended Rep. Rodante Marcoleta against attacks that his endorsement of the Lozano complaint proved him to be a Malacañang lackey, pointed out during the plenary voting, the opposition voted to reject the draft rules for the 13th Congress in favor of the rules adopted during the 11th Congress which governed the Estrada impeachment. Had they opted for the new rules, the two complaints could have been consolidated, said Abalos. *Wala sana tayong problema ngayon,* he added. *(To be continued)*

Question of funding

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN AN EFFORT TO MUFFLE THE OUTCRY FROM lawmakers regarding the $75,000 a month to be paid a high-powered US law firm to lobby with the US government, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales has clarified that the money to contract the law firm's services will be coming from private donations and not public funds.

The explanation was apparently made to counter criticism that the government should not be spending so much (approximately P4.2 million a month or P50.4 million a year) on the services of a lobbying firm during an economic crisis. How to explain, after all, why the government cannot provide its citizens enough medicines, basic services like water and power, or desks and schoolrooms, when it seems apparently able to spare millions for a private lobbyist?

But Gonzales' explanation seems to make matters even worse. Previously, lawmakers had argued that the hiring of an American law firm to lobby with American lawmakers and policymakers "diminished Philippine sovereignty," particularly since the firm would also do work related to constitutional amendments. But if hiring a foreign firm to make representations on behalf of the government is questionable, the disclosure that private funds will be used brings up possible conflict of interest.

Where are the private donations to come from? And what do the donors have to gain from the possible approval of these "grants, aid, programs" that Gonzales says have been held up in the labyrinth of American bureaucracy?

It seems that, setting aside the question of expense, it would only be proper that the lobbying budget be drawn from government funds. The entry of "private" donors brings their motives to question, and underscores all the more the alleged practice of "transactional politics" under the Arroyo administration.

* * *

THAT a Malacañang official would now openly admit that the government is relying on private funds to pursue a public policy initiative is ironic, given that nongovernment organizations, particularly those linked to resigned members of the Arroyo Cabinet, have come under snide fire for accepting donations from foreign sources.

These NGOs, particularly those once headed by former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and former Peace Adviser Ging Quintos Deles, have been criticized for relying on foreign funding institutions and foundations to carry out projects. Because many NGO projects involve either direct delivery of services or advocacy on issues to which government has been either neglectful or indifferent, the use of foreign funds, it is implied, is somehow treasonous or unpatriotic.

And yet there is a reason these funds have gone to nongovernment groups. Foreign NGOs understandably are more comfortable providing funds for projects conceived and administered by other NGOs. Other funding institutions, including the development agencies of foreign governments, tap NGOs to do work on issues and concerns that the Philippine government has not or cannot or refuses to undertake. NGOs are also particularly effective in carrying out pilot programs, with many successful government programs being expansions or replications of successful pilot programs that were initially implemented by NGOs.

* * *

NONGOVERNMENT organizations have no illusions about replacing or even just replicating the work of government. In a perfect world, there would be no need at all for NGOs because it would mean that government sufficiently meets the needs of all its citizens. But even in the world's most advanced and wealthiest countries, NGOs flourish because there are issues and concerns, and projects that are simply better suited for people outside government. And also, I might add, because people continue to want to help in whatever way they can—while bypassing the bureaucratic maze.

There are also suspicions that the leaders or administrators of NGOs personally benefit from the funds they manage to raise. While there have indeed been irregularities within NGOs or not-for-profit groups, both funders and the NGO community have established safeguards to ensure that these remain rare and isolated. The country's largest networks of NGOs have already come together to produce a set of "good governance" policies and practices, including requiring full transparency and accountability, and have even set up an accreditation process. Funders also conduct regular audits and funds from foreign governments are likewise audited by their own auditing bodies. Likewise, funds from the Philippine government itself that are accessed by NGOs are subject to scrutiny by the Commission on Audit.

* * *

HOW do NGOs raise money to fund their projects?

It often begins by coming up with a proposal and then presenting these to possible funders. Discussions usually ensue on the design of the project and on maximizing the use of the funds before the project is approved and the money starts arriving. In the case of foreign funders, the final memoranda of agreement are usually sent to the main headquarters for further study.

During the life of a project, regular audits are conducted, and an end-of-project report is required, including a full accounting. Project implementers are often asked to include, even at the planning stage, ways to measure the impacts of their projects, such as the number of beneficiaries, which will determine whether the project will be extended, or whether the NGO can access other funds in the future.

Obviously, the money that goes the way of NGOs is neither easy to come by nor frivolously spent, and is subject to strict audits. Which is more than we can say about the undisclosed "donations" for the lobbying project.

The French in the Philippines

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IT WAS ON ONE OF THOSE RARE DAYS WHEN I was feeling industrious and decided to clean out my e-mail. Naturally this takes long because you end up re-reading everything to the detriment of your failing eyesight! One of these letters dealing with innovations and inventions made me realize that I am actually 105 and time had galloped by without my realizing what had happened.

You may be wondering what all this has to do with the French. Well, in the process of cleaning out the mailbox, lo and behold, my virus alarm started going berserk and the PC came crashing down with something called "Spybot worm" that I couldn't even find on the virus list. So after violently dialing for a technician (he was asleep!), I decided not to waste time and read a dissertation by Denis Nardin about France and the Philippines. This is always entertaining because you discover all kinds of stuff you didn't know before. (No, don't ask of what use is all these trivia.)

I figured, never mind Guillaume Le Gentil and his "Voyage dans les Mers de L'Inde…Fait dans les Annees 1760 a 1771" and Paul de la Gironiere's "Vingt Annees aux Philippines (1853)" or even la Perouse, since you're all familiar with them. Although truth to tell, I couldn't resist passing on to you Le Gentil's choice observations about the 300 Spanish families who controlled everything and did little but "curry favor with the Governor… (and) recite the rosary." He also commented that it was difficult for him to "cite a city where morals are more corrupt than in Manila; religion is not able to put any stop to it." (The CBCP should give up; we were already like this 200 years ago.) Even then women's fertility astonished: "In the villages one sees nothing but little children, pregnant women and suckling infants." Reminds me of that saying about how the more things change…

Anyway, I bet, for example, you didn't know (since I didn't) that there were 14 Frenchmen among Magellan's sailors, all of whom perished, except perhaps for Richard of Bruz who may or may not have been taken prisoner in Cape Verde Islands. This may have deterred them from joining any expeditions for a while, but there were any number of plans devised to grab a share of the profitable Asian trade, including having Armenians or Malabars assigned to act as captains of the vessel while the real French captain passed himself off as the pilot. The Spanish jealously guarded their trade with China and the other Asian countries and weren't too enthusiastic about having others horn in.

By the 18th century, there were more contacts and Cesar Fallet, who may have been Swiss but was considered French, was assigned to lead Kapampangans in defending Manila against the British, while Fort Santiago was under the command of a M. Pingon. A certain Jean-Marie Dayot, ex-commander of the Cochin China Navy, retired in Manila in 1795 and together with his brother Felix dealt in fitting and trading operations. Here appears an interesting item in a letter written by the commandant of the ship Rhone in 1819, stating that it was necessary to appoint a French agent to facilitate trade operations. M. Felix Dayot was chosen and a Señor Vita, partner of his son-in-law M. Roxas (Domingo?), was supplier.

Then there was the apostolic vicar, Msgr. Pallu, who was shipwrecked in Luzon in 1672 and was suspected of espionage by the Spanish authorities. He was forthwith locked up in the Jesuit College in Manila before being sent to a Madrid prison until 1677. Given that he was a papal envoy, what do you think was the pope doing during those five years?

In 1761, Spain declared war on England, lost it the following year together with one galleon, the island of Cuba and 15 million piastres. To recover them, she ceded Belize and Florida. This gave France ideas in 1763 to take possession of part at least of the Philippines which, according to the former commander in Bengal, M. Cortin, could be acquired "cheap" if they negotiated secretly with the Spanish king because everyone knew that we were a "burden" to him.

Another traveler, Viscount Pierre de Pages, author of "Voyages Autour de Monde et Vers les Deuz Pole, par Terre et par Mer, Pendant les Annees 1767 a 1776," boarded a galleon in Acapulco that had more servants than masters. Even the sailors had one or two! Although he had some nice things to say about us, he observed that "…one lone mayor with no soldiers governs ten thousand Indians. They actually detest him, at least, as much as the natives (Indonesians) detest the Dutch; they, however, do not rebel."

By the end of the 18th century, we were considered "economically weak, militarily vulnerable and politically unstable." (For obvious reasons I have this tiresome feeling of déjà vu.) This still didn't discourage some people and by 1803, L. Galabert, Philippine agent for the Royal Company in Bengal, proposed to the premier consul to negotiate for Mindanao which "was inappropriately included in the group of Philippine Islands," a common sentiment among some Muslims.

Joseph-Francois Carpentier de Cossigny thought that the French could overcome difficulties taking over the Philippines from the Spanish friars (note: not the government, but the friars) by pitting 2,500 regular clergy against only 700 friars. Who knows if it hadn't been for the Napoleonic wars, more of us would have been fonder of frogs and not just the Kapampangans.

(Data from dissertation of Denis Nardin, "France and the Philippines," 1974)

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Ashtray or beer bottle?

YOUNG BLOOD

Andrew Benedict Lim Sy

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE ENDED UP IN THE SAME place over and over again? Like a carousel, life has a way of repeating itself either through familiar circumstances or memories. Some things are worth reliving, while others are best left to the forgetful embrace of time.

Recently I found myself in a place and in a situation that were all too familiar. I was in an open-air bar in Quezon City, with a friend sitting across the table, distraught. That night looked, smelled and felt like any other night—dark, mysterious and inviting to those who wanted anonymity. For two people, that night was not just inviting but seductive.

We were hungry, so we ordered grilled tuna, a plate of *sisig* and two enormous glasses of root beer. We ate silently, stopping only to exchange a few words. I could feel the weight she was carrying and the proverbial dark cloud hung over our small corner table, making the shadows appear darker and longer than they really were.

Like a decayed dam, she was ready to burst and through her teary eyes, I could see the cracks in her soul leaking her emotions. With each teardrop, I felt the weight of her sorrow as if it were my own, dull and piercing at the same time.

I ate the tuna and finished the *sisig*, but everything tasted like paper in my mouth. After finishing our meal, we ordered a round of beer.

While I nursed a bottle, she drank like she had been wandering the Sahara desert for days. Halfway to her third bottle, she began talking and by her fourth, she was weeping. I listened quietly like any friend would to a familiar story she had told me countless times before, interrupting her to seek clarification every now and then to assure her I was listening very closely.

After a while, she started to run out of words to say and tears to shed. We welcomed the silence. For me, it meant her load had been lightened; for her, it meant she had made a clean breast of everything. I knew what was coming next: it was my turn to talk.

As I played with the ashtray, sliding it back and forth across the table, she threw her first question almost in a whisper: "Drew, you know everything that happened between us from start to finish. How much, do you think, does he love me?"

Pondering her question, I looked at the ashtray in front of me and the now empty beer bottle in my left hand. I knew what she wanted to hear, but I wanted to let her face the truth. I looked into her eyes which were eagerly pleading for assurance that she was loved, but I knew she deserved to be told more than a beautiful lie.

Motioning to the waiter, I asked for a glass of water. Then looking into my friend's eyes, I said to her, "You are asking the wrong question."

When the waiter came back with a glass of water, I took it and asked, "Ashtray or beer bottle?"

Bewildered, she exclaimed, "Is this one of your weird jokes again? If it is, you could not have picked a worse time!"

"No," I told her evenly. Taking the ashtray from the table, I proceeded to pour water into it until it was filled to the brim. "Let as assume this ashtray can contain 300 cubic centimeters of water," I went on. "Now you know the water is exactly 300 c.c."

Then I began shaking the ashtray, at first gently and then more vigorously when I was sure the waiters weren't looking our way. After about five seconds, I stopped and asked her how much water was left.

Looking at me as if I had more than one screw missing in my head, she answered, "Almost nothing!"

I took the ashtray, filled it again to the brim and then poured its entire contents to my empty beer bottle. By then she was looking at me as if I had grown horns or something. I placed the bottle in front of me to catch her attention, shook it as vigorously as I could and asked her: "How much of the water is left now?"

Unable to hide her exasperation, she replied, "No water was spilled. But get to the point!"

"The point," I explained, "is that the water represents how much he loved you. The difference between the ashtray and the beer bottle is not how much water was in it in the beginning, but how much water they hold after they were shaken. In the case of the ashtray, almost all its contents were spilled, while not a single drop escaped from the beer bottle."

Some time in every person's life, he or she asks, "How much do you love me?" I think the better question is expressed in the title of an old song: "How deep is your love?" Or, are you an ashtray or a beer bottle?

That night, my friend drank a total of six bottles of beer, while I managed to keep my consumption to just one. But come to think about it, there were actually nine empty beer bottles that night. Seven were left on the table, while two got up and left around midnight.

Andrew Benedict Lim Sy, 23, finished BS Architecture at the University of Santo Tomas and placed sixth in the board examinations given in January 2005.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Needed medicine

"His messages are a necessary dose of medicine, it is a prescription for how to resolve our problems. If we would only think about what he wrote from his experience, we would learn a lot."

—Executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts Cecile Guidote-Alvarez on Ninoy Aquino's works

The real problem

"The President cannot just say that we should forget about everything because we have serious economic problems. It's not possible. The main reason we are in a rut is that we have officials who lie, cheat and steal."

—House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, explaining why the country can't just move on as the administration wants

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Put people back in the picture

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE national focus at present is only on big events, such as the Garci tapes, jueteng-gate, impeachment, Charter change; and on the power wielders, such as Fidel Ramos and Jose de Venecia.

Where are the people in the picture? A democracy such as ours is premised on the thesis that it is the people who rule. But where is the discussion on reforms and sectoral concerns? Sadly, some members of the media capitalize on romanticism and scandals, so they become also a party to the act of excluding the people in the present discourse.

As for the peasants, they are united in calling for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster. Aside from rigging the elections, GMA has not acted on farmers' issues. She is consistently pushing for the passage of the Farmland as Collateral bill, which on the surface seeks to spur countryside growth and development but in reality will reverse all the agrarian reform gains because it is cleverly redesigned to allow the reconsolidation of farmlands. Aside from appointing anti-farmer agrarian reform secretaries, like Roberto Pagdanganan and Hernani Braganza, the government under GMA has also failed to use the recovered ill-gotten Marcos wealth judiciously.

The peasants have already drafted a post-GMA agenda. It includes the increase in land acquisition and distribution targets and accomplishments, protection of gains made under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, and the judicious use of the Marcos wealth earmarked for CARP.

If our country's problems are truly systemic, then we need deep-rooted reforms to address them. We cannot begin addressing our woes by concentrating all our attention on politicians and their tactics. We need to hear what ordinary citizens, civil society groups and sectors have to say on improving our lives. Bring the people back in.

—JANE D. CAPACIO,
member, Kilusan para sa
Pagsulong ng Repormang Agraryo
(Kilos AR), c/o Kaisahan Inc.,
3 Mahabangin St.,
Teachers' Village West,
Diliman, Quezon City

Senator's sister qualified for CHED position

THIS REFERS TO THE INQUIRER Sept. 7 editorial, titled "Slow burn," which alleged that the "President employed every means at her disposal to secure the vote she needed, including the power to appoint." Citing the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, the editorial proceeded to "name just a few: x x x Nenalyn Santiago, sister of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, was appointed commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education last Aug. 1."

First, you may be referring not to a certain Nenalyn Santiago, but to Dr. Nenalyn Palma Defensor, the sister of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who was appointed to the CHED not on Aug. 1 as stated in the editorial, but in July of the current year.

To put political color on the appointment of Defensor to her current post is to grossly disparage her hard-earned credentials and impressive qualifications. Defensor holds a Ph.D. in Education from the Philippine Women's University; an MA in Guidance and Counseling from the Ateneo de Manila University; an MA in National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines; an MA in Child Study and Development; and a BS in Education from the West Visayas State University. She also took up post-doctoral studies in Counseling Psychology at the De La Salle University.

Defensor held teaching positions at the University of the Philippines-College of Education, PWU and Assumption College. She also served as chair of the Department of Psychology and acting dean of the Graduate School of the PWU.

Her appointment as CHED commissioner can be considered as a demotion considering the significant decrease in salary from her previous position as legislative staff head at the Commission on Appointments. Nevertheless, she accepted the President's invitation to join the CHED because she believes she can be a better public servant if she occupies a position in line with her area of expertise.

The Philippine National Association of Schools Security Organization (Philnasso), the largest confederation of school administrators, has lauded Defensor's appointment. According to the group, considering that Defensor came from both private and public schools, she can better oversee the problems confronting educational institutions in the tertiary level.

—DENNIS ESCALONA LEGASPI,
media relations officer,
Office of Sen. Miriam
Defensor-Santiago, Room 518
Senate of the Philippines,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Healthy vegan diet wards off diabetes

KUDOS TO CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA for his article about the surge in type-2 diabetes cases in children. ("Love means not overfeeding your children," PDI, 8/26/05)

The best way to keep kids trim and to ward off diabetes is to feed them a healthy vegan diet. Animal products are loaded with fat and cholesterol which contribute to obesity, heart disease and other conditions that could lead to diabetes.

A recent study out of Simmons College and the Harvard School of Public Health in America found that the more red and processed meats people eat, the higher their risk of diabetes. Likewise, researchers from the University of Minnesota have found that the more saturated fat (i.e., steaks and hamburgers) people eat, the more their level of fatty acids increase, and the more likely they will develop type-2 diabetes. Studies published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association show that meat and dairy products are the main sources of fat in youngsters' diets.

The late Dr. Benjamin Spock, America's leading authority on child care, spoke out against feeding cow's milk to children, saying it can cause insulin-dependent diabetes, and, in the long term, will set kids up for obesity and heart disease. Many other experts recommend that parents feed children a healthy plant-based diet. For more information, please visit DefeatingDiabetes.com.

—SONIA G. ASTUDILLO,
People for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals,
SoniaA@PETAAsiaPacific.com

House failed our country again

"OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM IS DEgenerative." Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself said this in her 2005 State of the Nation Address. According to the Dictionary of the English Language, the word degenerate, as an adjective, means "having fallen to an inferior or undesirable state, especially in mental or moral qualities." As a noun, a degenerate is "a depraved, corrupt, or vicious person."

If there is one institution in our country today that best shows the extent of degeneracy of our political system, it is the House of Representatives. It is the one institution that manifests how so entrenched political patronage and elitist politics in the country are. For so long an institution dominated by self-serving political leaders, it does everything, right or wrong, to ensure that their political and economic survival is assured.

In the impeachment debate, the House of Representatives showed how a group of degenerates, acting as the majority, can work in concerted effort to hide from the Filipino people the truth about the taped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. By hastily dismissing the impeachment complaints, the House members exposed themselves as representatives of Ms Arroyo and not of the people who elected them. They gave Ms Arroyo a new lease on life, knowing fully well that such an act of goodwill will be rewarded generously. Ms Arroyo survived the impeachment, thanks to a corrupt political system that she benefits from. It is the same degenerative political system that she inhabits, supports and nourishes.

Ms Arroyo once pleaded to the Filipino people to be given the chance to prove her innocence at the proper venue, through a legal process. We gave her that chance even though we believed that the Gloriagate scandal was not just a legal issue but also a moral one and more. The people banked on a constitutional process to resolve the issue even if it was common knowledge that the administration had all the means and resources to manipulate an impeachment process in Congress.

We were right. A so-called legal process has failed the people once again, but Ms Arroyo and her representatives celebrated it as a "glorious moment in Philippine history," and the nation lies prostrate, the helpless victims of government corruption and insolence of power. In truth, it was an infamy, a shameless "victory" slapped on the faces of the people. Ms Arroyo remains accountable for the moral and ethical implications of her actions and she remains answerable to the Filipino people. History will be the judge.

We, the faculty members of the University of the Philippines Baguio, reiterate our call for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation.

—SIGNED BY 30 CONCERNED
FACULTY MEMBERS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
PHILIPPINES BAGUIO

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, September 17, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN				Corporate Billiards League		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			The Working President	GSIS Member's Hour		Specials				Auto Focus	
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Close Up To Fame		Naindig The Hidden Files		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue	Pinoy Big Brother	TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Sabado Movie Greats			
ABC 5	Winner TV Shopping		Junior Watch	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		Lizzie Mcguire	Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Maling Mali		Ariel And Mavorick	Kundun		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9		Tara Lets	Ma'm Working	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		Matt Flanders				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Big Easy				Bitag		In This Corner			
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		Friends Again		Sheperds Voice		EZ Shop		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Gilmore Girls	Jack & Bobby	The Bachelorette		Studio 23 Present					Reel Deal
MTV Philippines	A Test Of Bravery	Boiling Points	MTV Live	MTV Live	Viva La Bam	Wild N' Out	The 70's House	PunkD	2005 Pilipinas Red Carpet Special	2005 MTV Pilipinas Awards						Brand New	2005 VMA Uncensored	MTV Play	MTV Live
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		Mobile MYX Top Picks	Top Of The Pops	MYX Live!		MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
ESPN	Major League Baseball						World Snooker Tour The Masters '05					Sportscenter Asia	Women's Pro Billiards '05		Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports					TV Shopping	FIBA Asia C'ship '05 Bronze				FIBA Asia C'ship '05 Finals			Sports Desk	Phil. 9-Ball Open 2005				NBA TV Daily	GWS
Sports Plus				Deutsche Bank US C'ship H'lights								Ultimate Fighting Championship							
Cinemax	Murder In Paradise			The Parole Officer (4:15PM)			Silent Rage (5:45PM)				Octane			Death Becomes Her			Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Mike Bassett: England Manager				Word Of Honor				Gleason		Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women Of Camelot	Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women Of Camelot						
Disney Channel		Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Kim Possible	House Of Mouse	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		One Step Beyond	Evolver	Zero Hour		Hour China		Wild Discovery				Guilty Or Innocent		Mummy Autopsy		Extreme Discovery	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Gates Of Hell		Creature Feature				Foxes Of The Kalahari		Nulla Pambu	Leopard Rescue	Big Bite Nite			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Dr. Seuss Special			Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	The Gransazers	Justice League	Sealab 2021 (11:15PM)	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Nickelodeon	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	World's Most Extreme Homes		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Look For Less	Best Kept Hollywood Secrets		Fashion Trance	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion	8 Simple Rules For Dating My Teenage Daughter	I Dare You		Enterprise		The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development/Less Than Perfect
AXN		Joan Of Arc				AXN Shakedown		WRC 2005: Rally XS Great Britain	E Buzz	Now See This	Now See This	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Las Vegas		House		The Shield	
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC		Saturday Night Live		For Love Or Money		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		Carnivale 10: Hot And Bothered		I.Q.			The Brady Bunch In The White House			S.W.A.T				Peter Pan				Deadwood 05 The Trial Of Jack Mccall (10:55PM)	
Star Movies		Girl, Interrupted (2:55PM)				The Parent Trap				Sudden Death (7:10PM)				Wicker Park				Uptown Girls (10:55PM)	
Cinema One	Isang Tanong, Isang Sagot				Wala Na Bang Pag-ibig				My Movie				Hostage				Bcuz Of U		
EWTN	Voices On Virtue	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Beatitudes	Story Keepers	Faith Factor C	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life is Worth Living	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15PM)	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Choices We Face	Crisis In Culture	Life on The Rock Encore	

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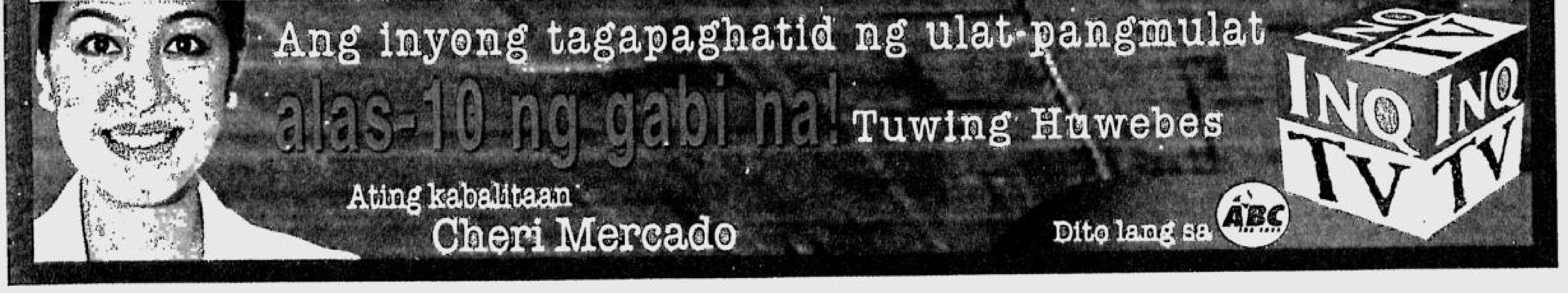

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Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
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INQ TV

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Question of the Week

Your thoughts on the death of Haydee Yorac?

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Key in: inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
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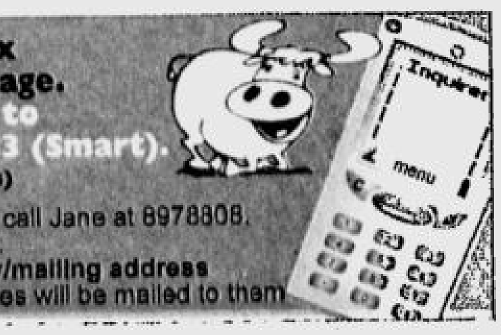

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Execs warn of new Quezon disaster

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—INCESSANT torrential rains in the past few days and the unabated logging in the northern Quezon towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar (Reina) may again cause killer flash floods and mudslides similar to what happened in the area in December last year, the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) in Calabarzon warned yesterday.

The flash floods last year claimed the lives of thousands of residents and left hundreds others missing up to this day.

According to Armando Duque, RDCC-Calabarzon chair, the latest assessment of the area showed that continuous rains and minor landslides have created "mini dams" at the top of the mountainous areas of northern Quezon.

He said for the past three days, he and other officials of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) flew over the Reina area on board a helicopter to conduct an aerial inspection of several "threatened areas."

During the inspection, Duque said they noticed several "holes and pots" in treeless regions of the area.

He said some of the holes now filled with water were caused by landslides last December.

"There really is a serious threat of landslides and flash floods there. Large volumes of water have been deposited in holes which formed like mini dams. In time, these may cause trouble for the villages there," Duque told the INQUIRER.

In fact, he said, a minor landslide was reported in Barangay Tanauan in Real town last Wednesday.

"Fortunately, there were no casualties reported after that landslide," he said.

Aside from the heavy downpour, Duque said the continuous cutting of mature trees along the Real-Mauban area increased the risk of flash floods in northern Quezon.

He said even Real Mayor Arsenio Ramallosa told them that there were persistent reports of illegal logging in the town.

"But we cannot do anything about it since that is the job of the (Department of Environment and Natural Resources)," he said.

He said aside from massive public information and education campaign, the RDCC is currently updating their hazard maps to monitor and warn areas which are likely to be hit by landslides and flooding.

The establishment of early warning systems and improvement of communication centers are also being undertaken with the help of local government units, he said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has also put up additional rain gauge instruments in the area to help RDCC in monitoring rainwater level. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mindoro town farmers uproot Bt-corn plants

GREENPEACE activists and local farmers in protective suits uproot Bt-corn plants in Naujan, Mindoro. AFP

NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO—Backed by the municipal government and the Greenpeace International, 15 farmers here decontaminated a farm planted to genetically engineered Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) corn in Barangay Sta. Maria on Thursday.

Protectively attired against hazardous materials, the farmers uprooted the Bt-corn plants, placed them in plastic bags and sealed them in drums.

The farmers had been demanding a genetically modified organisms-free (GMO-free) Mindoro.

They said farm owner Lina Mañibo continued to plant the Bt-corn despite a provincial ban on GMOs.

Mañibo, a Department of Land Reform employee, however, allowed her farm to be decontaminated after she was informed of the environmental and health costs of Bt-corn.

"I am supporting the government in its program," she said.

The provincial government passed an environmental code, authored by lawyer Ligorio Turano, that bans GMOs in June last year.

"Provincial agriculturist Rodolfo Valdez allowed his cousin to plant Bt-corn here, arguing that 'it's the farmer's choice' because this is a free enterprise," said Ely Vargas, municipal agriculturist. "It's not actually a free choice in the end because (American company) Monsanto controls the seeds."

In an earlier interview with provincial environment and natural resources officer Mike Jumig and Lorybelle Tanyag, provincial legal officer, they said a case is under way against Monsanto for violating the code.

Instead of just a rally, Greenpeace, an international nongovernment organization, showed the farmers that decontamination was doable and urgent.

"What we did is a first in the country," said Daniel Ocampo, Greenpeace genetic engineering campaigner.

Ocampo said the Philippines should declare a moratorium on the release of GMOs.

He added that the government should also ensure that GMO-free areas should not be penetrated by GMOs.

The municipality of Naujan asked help from Greenpeace, knowing its expertise on the issue.

"Even before the environment code, our vision was sustainable agriculture where the farmers are the focal point of development and not mere beneficiaries of the so-called 'modern technology,' which is beyond their capabilities to manage. We need to go back to basic organic farming where the farmers are not dependent on the government for assistance," said Naujan Mayor Norberto Mendoza.

"I've asked Governor (Arnan) Panaligan to issue a memo to all mayors to enforce the ban on GMO and I'll back it up," said Mendoza, also the president of the league of mayors.

Panaligan said he would issue a memo in the first week of October.

A lawyer, the governor clarified that the free enterprise principle invoked by Valdez does not apply because there is a code that bans GMOs.

"We'll conduct information campaign among farmers," he said.

Vargas said that in the Green Revolution of Masagana 99, the farmers were just made to consume 12 bags of fertilizers (from six) but Bt-corn requires 15 bags. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

138 families flee village in Pampanga as floods rise

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—AT least 138 families in Barangay Buas in Candaba, Pampanga, were evacuated on Friday as raging floodwaters at the Pampanga River eroded the river banks there.

Mayor Gerry Pelayo said the alarm for mandatory evacuation was raised to prevent the loss of lives.

The residents, he said, were ordered to leave as early as six months ago as last year's rains ate a portion of the bank that remained unfortified with concrete until now. The evacuees moved to homes of relatives, he said.

In San Simon town, residents rushed to plug an eroded segment of the Arnedo Dike in Barangay San Jose, said Armando Austria, Pampanga disaster coordinating council chief.

In Aurora, almost 100 families at Barangay Paltic in Dingalan town fled their homes on Friday, as heavy rains since Tuesday caused the river there to overflow and water at the Dingalan Bay to rise, swamping the barangay hall.

Dingalan Councilor Shiela Taay said the evacuees sought refuge in homes of relatives.

Residents were both wary of floods and landslides that buried the village in November last year, she said. Electricity in the town was cut off on Tuesday.

In Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, the Danglan River swelled on Friday, raising the floodwaters in the villages of South Poblacion, Sawmill, Pantok, Bagong Sikat and Calabasa up to knee-deep, according to Chief Insp. Nelson Sulit, Gabaldon police chief.

Three families from South Poblacion have evacuated to the Gabaldon Training Center.

The Dingalan-Gabaldon Road was impassable by noon, he said.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development received reports of stranded commuters along the Bongabon (Nueva Ecija)-Baler (Aurora) route. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Drug pusher arrested

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Calabarzon arrested a drug peddler during a buy-bust operation in Biñan, Laguna on Tuesday. PDEA-Calabarzon director Supt. Abe Lemos identified the suspect as Bobby Endriga, alias "Tibak," 33, of Barangay Malabon, Biñan town. Lemos said the suspect was collared after their poseur-buyer bought 50 grams of shabu (*methamphetamine hydrochloride*) worth P100,000 from him inside a house in Barangay Casile at about 6 p.m. He said they had filed charges against Endriga who is now locked up at the PDEA jail in this camp.

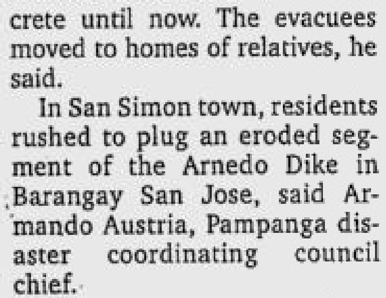
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Sorsogon fire

LEGAZPI CITY—The Office of Civil Defense here reported yesterday a fire that razed the entire public market of Matnog, Sorsogon on Thursday afternoon. The fire gutted at least 42 market stalls and damaged 10 houses. The Department of Interior and Local Government was looking at faulty wiring as the possible cause of the fire.

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Imported rice preferred


SYEMPRE—MAS MURA E!

CITY OF MALOLOS—Bulacan residents have started patronizing cheaper imported rice from Vietnam and Thailand, overtaking the sale of locally milled rice, officials of the National Food Authority said. Marciano Alvarez, chief of the NFA office in Bulacan, said the province's 962 outlets in at least 10 towns and two cities sell imported rice at an average of P800 a sack (50 kg) while commercially milled local rice sell between P1,000 and P1,500 a sack. He said imported rice retails for an average of P17 a kg and local rice between P20 and P26. Alvarez attributed the brisk sale of imported rice to the economic crisis as more families patronize cheaper products to save money. The government's "Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke" retail stores or community rice centers have been brought to villages for poor families. He said Bulacan has been allocated 800,000 bags of imported rice a year. The NFA, he said, would ask the government to increase the allocation to at least a million bags due to the demand in the province.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wanted man captured

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Central Mindanao, the police's regional mobile group, the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion and the police in Glan, Sarangani, on Wednesday arrested a man long wanted for 32 counts of rape and car theft in Alaminos, Pangasinan. CIDG regional director Senior Supt. Edwin Diocos told reporters here that Michael Lester Supangan was listed as most wanted man not only in Pangasinan but in the entire Ilocos region. The Department of Interior and Local Government had issued memorandum circular 2004-168 dangling a P400,000 reward for the capture of Supangan dead or alive.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Town assessor dies

KALAYAAN, Laguna—The municipal assessor of Kalayaan town and mother of a diocesan priest died of heart ailment on Monday last week. Rev. Fr. Frederick Yapana, parish priest of Magdalena, Laguna and a native of Barangay Longos in this town, said his mother Lourdes Yapana, 63, was buried Sept. 9 at the Longos, Kalayaan Cemetery following a 1 p.m. Mass at the St. John the Baptist Parish Church in Longos.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Flooding hits 14 villages in 2 towns in Leyte

By Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—FLOODS HIT 14 villages in the towns of Inopacan and Matag-ob, Leyte, making life more miserable for about 6,000 families living in low-lying areas.

Felipe Lagunzad, provincial disaster coordinating council operating officer, said nine villages in Inopacan and five in Matag-ob were flooded following heavy rains that started on Tuesday night and ended the following day.

He said the two towns had been identified as among the province's flood-prone areas.

"We always expect that during a heavy downpour, many barangays of these municipalities suffer flooding," he said.

Matag-ob Mayor Michael Torrevillas said he had convened the municipal disaster coordinating council to assist the 600 families in Barangays Sto. Rosario, Masalip, Imelda, Riverside and Bunoy.

But he said worst hit was Bunoy where 140 families had been evacuated to an elementary school due to the flood. About P5,000 was released to help these residents.

Efren Udtuhan, Matag-ob social welfare officer, said relief goods like rice and noodles would be distributed to the families of Bunoy by the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Western Visayas office.

Although there was no evacuation in the four other villages, reports said the floods had inundated ricefields there.

In Inopacan, nine of its 20 barangays were flooded after the rivers in Barangays Marao, Guinsanga-an and Linano overflowed due to heavy rains.

Ben Lloren, nephew and executive secretary of Inopacan Mayor Alfredo Lloren, said about 6,000 families suffered the flood effects but no damage to property was reported because the residents were already prepared for floods.

Residents placed sandbags and hollow blocks to prevent water from seeping into their houses, said Lloren in an interview over his mobile phone.

"Everything is still normal here. We are used to flooding during heavy rains just like the one we experienced last Tuesday," he said.

He said that while the water went up to knee-level, it subsided the next day.

100 families flee floods in Quezon towns

LUCENA CITY—FEARFUL OF THE repeat of another flash flood from Agos River, at least 100 families living along the riverbank villages of Banglos and Anoling in General Nakar town have started to evacuate to higher grounds as early as 3 p.m. Thursday, according to General Nakar Mayor Hernando Avellaneda.

"Although, we're only under alert level one, I've decided to start the evacuation. It will be hard for the residents to grope in the middle of the night should another flash flood occur," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

He said some male residents volunteered to remain to watch their personal belongings.

"We evacuated even the animals," he said.

Avellaneda said they have been monitoring the condition of Agos River the whole evening.

The municipal disaster coordinating council has been alerted and placed in standby status, said the mayor.

Officials of the neighboring town of Infanta have also implemented their own safety measures.

Infanta Mayor Grace America said her flood watch point reached level 4 forcing her to warn villages along river banks of possible evacuation.

According to America, continuous rains have been falling in their area since Wednesday.

Ron Crisostomo, member of the municipal disaster coordinating council, said they have also alerted the villages of Magsaysay and Gumian for possible rain-induced landslides.

He said they have also warned the residents living in low-lying areas to remain vigilant and observe all safety measures.

"So far, the situation is still manageable. But we're deeply monitoring the development along Agos River," he said.

Crisostomo said the river rechanneling that they have started last month helped lessen the danger of possible flash floods in Infanta town.

"Agos River has now two channels to run before it again meanders toward our town," he said.

Catholic priest Pete Montallana, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Prelature of Infanta and director of the Tribal Center for Development, told the INQUIRER that tribal leaders of the Agta natives have also alerted different indigenous communities in the slopes of Sierra Madre.

"They are wary of landslides," he said.

He added that the natives were also concerned on where to get their next meals.

"They could not fish and work on their farm because of the continuous rains," the priest said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Tsinoys give houses to homeless in Escalante

GAWAD Kalinga volunteers help build 76 houses for poor residents of Escalante City. PHOTOS BY CARLA P. GOMEZ

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

THE CHINESE-FILIPINO COMmunity in the Philippines is actively involved in making a difference in Escalante City, 102.1 km north of Bacolod City, and tomorrow, the first 50 of the 76 houses it helped build will be inaugurated.

The Kaisa-Gawad Kalinga-Tsinoy Village in Sitio Tab-ang, Barangay Old Poblacion is the third housing enclave in Escalante City that provides homes to residents belonging to the bottom 30 percent of the economic strata with incomes below P3,000 a month.

The other two are the Pag-Asa Habitat for Humanity Village in Barangay Hunob-hunob and the Kalipay Fisherfolk Village in Barangay Poblacion, Escalante City.

Mayor Santiago Barcelona said his aim is to make Escalante City squatter and slum free by 2014 with the construction of 10,500 houses.

His goal, he said, is to set up 25 housing sites in 21 barangays. "Filipinos should not be squatters in their own country and providing people with decent homes to live in will restore their self-respect and dignity," he added.

God-sent

Beneficiaries at the Negros Kaisa-Gawad Kalinga Tsinoy Village said the houses were God-sent. The village sits in a 1,058-hectare lot donated by the family of Barcelona.

Lydia Gallardo, 56, a widow, cooks for an eatery and washes clothes so she and her four children can eat.

Earning only about P125 a day has made it difficult for her to buy materials to patch up her leaking roof and hoping to own decent home has remained a dream, she said.

But "by the grace of the Lord and the kindness of the mayor," she said, the dream of owning a house became a reality. She has been chosen to receive a house being built in Tsinoy Village.

The houses in the village are arranged so it does not look like a slum area anymore, she said. The brightly painted houses and newly planted trees and shrubs make their village "better looking than some subdivisions," she said.

Charlie Caberte, 13, said his father is a laborer in the Escalante pier. His mother died giving birth to his sister in January. He said his family (he has two other brothers and two sisters) lived in a shanty made of bamboo and coconut lumber and could only dream of a better house, until they received a windfall with their inclusion as Tsinoy Village beneficiary.

He said he should be in Grade 6 now but he had to quit studies because his father could not afford to send him to school.

THE BAYANIHAN spirit is seen during the construction of the Tsinoy GK village.

He said he has learned some skills in building houses. He has to contribute labor as part of the sweat-equity payment for the house to be given to his family.

Manuel Mabasa, 54, said he has not been able to work for five years because of an illness. He said his son Manuel Jr., who works in a bakery in Cebu, is helping his family survive by sending them money from time to time.

Manuel Sr., his wife and two other minor children live in a one-room shack that was just enough for them to sleep in.

"That is why I am overjoyed that my family has been included among the Tsinoy Village beneficiaries," said Manuel Sr.

Joebert Mahilum, 13, said his father who worked as a stevedore at the Escalante pier died in January and his mother, Salvacion, worked as a household help to make a living. Mahilum said he has five other brothers and sisters and they are very happy their family has been chosen as beneficiary of the Tsinoy Village homes.

Mahilum said he does not go to school but he is learning new building skills.

Tsinoys for nation-building

Anti-crime crusader Teresita Ang See, founding president of Kaisa Para Sa Kaunlaran, will represent Ambassador John K. C. Ng, Special Envoy for Chinese Affairs, at the inauguration of the 50 houses that the Chinese-Filipino community donated.

The donation of the 50 houses was coursed through Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, according to Lily Go, president of the Negros Kaisa Inc.

"The involvement of the Tsinoy community in building houses for the poor shows that Chinese-Filipinos do not just want to be bystanders; they are involved in nation-building," Go said.

Negros Kaisa has also helped raise funds from the Tsinoy community for another 15 houses in the village, Go said. Barcelona said he is also raising funds for another 11 houses.

Escalante was chosen as the site of the Tsinoy Village because Barcelona is a Tsinoy and this year's Dr. Jose P. Rizal Awardee for Excellence in Public Service, Go said.

The Negros Kaisa Inc. together with the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Inc., Gawad Kalinga Community Development Inc., and the City of Escalante is building the Tsinoy Village, Go said.

Selection process

"This is a clear case that shows that the Tsinoy community is involved in nation building contrary to the stereotype that they are only engaged in making money for themselves through their businesses," Barcelona said.

Those who have committed to donate the 15 additional houses, according to Go, are:

- the Negros Kaisa Inc.
- Appliance Centrum through Juan Gochangco
- Hong Te Ong, care of William Ong
- in memoriam of Bio Kan Cheng, care of Lito Ong
- in memoriam of Juaquin Gochango Sr., care of Teresa Gochangco
- in memoriam of Tua Tong and Guat Chan Go, care of Lily Go, and
- Philippine Lion Tek Fraternity Bacolod Chapter, care of Victor Go.

Also committed are:

- Negros Tai Guan Temple Inc, care of Edward Ong
- Northern Negros Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.
- the Southern Negros Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, care of Wilson Lee
- Negros Occidental Liok Kui Fraternity, care of Benjie Barcelona
- Philippine Long See Lee Family Association-Negros Occidental Chapter, care of Enrique Dy
- Bacolod Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., care of James Chua
- Sagay Sugar Central through Romy Cortez, and
- the Negros Occidental Che Yong Cua Chua Association through James Chua.

The mayor said the beneficiaries of the houses were chosen based on social profiling conducted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. They were given houses in exchange for 2,500 man-hours of work by a family—50 percent to be rendered by the head and 50 percent by its members, Barcelona said.

As with all Gawad Kalinga projects, each beneficiary-family must render sweat equity, or they should assist in building their house as well as their neighbors' houses, he explained.

A down payment of 400 man-hours of work is required for a family to be allowed to move in to their new homes, he said.

Each of the lowcost housing unit has a floor area of 22 square meters, including an extension for a rest room at the back. They are built on 72-square-meter lots.

There will be a landscaped park and playground, community facilities, greenbelts, campground and vegetable plots, Go said.

CHARLIE, right, in front of his shanty.

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Runner-up Myan's Badminton Center

AUGUST 20-21 (The Zone Badminton Center)
Central Eliminations Champion The Zone
Runner-up Power Smash

SEPTEMBER 3 (Davao Holiday Spa)
Mindanao Eliminations Champion
Smash Ville Fitness Center

SEPTEMBER 3 (Metro Sports Badminton Club)
Visayas Eliminations Champion
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SEPTEMBER 10-11 (Alabang Racquet Club)
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Pasig nets P500,000 in savings

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PASIG CITY HALL SAVED MORE than P500,000 in electricity bills in the first eight months of 2005 but Mayor Vicente Eusebio is not so happy about it.

The savings was way below the 15 percent targeted by the mayor.

From January to August, the city hall incurred P6,969,324 in electricity bills which was only P577,369, or 7.65 percent, lower than the local government's consumption of P7,546,694 for the same period last year.

Eusebio said the energy savings would be added to the city's bank deposits.

He had instructed city employees to save on electricity, phone and water consumption but the order was not strictly followed.

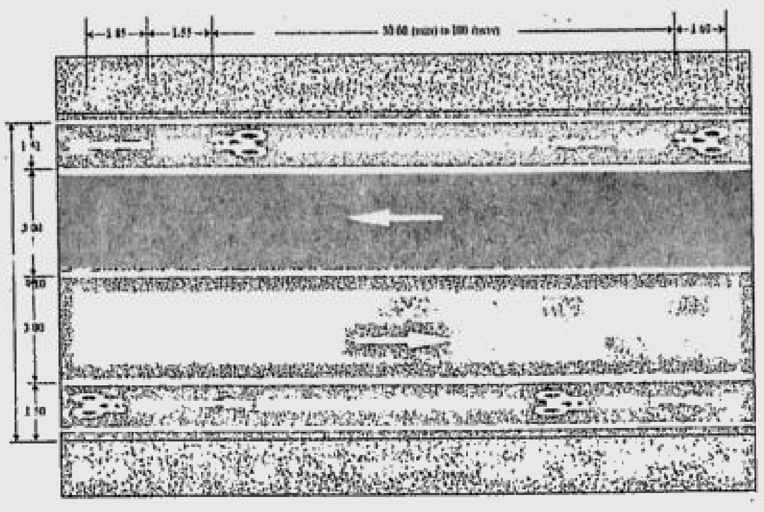
Irked with what he called "palpable non-observance" of his orders, he again issued another memorandum three weeks ago. This time, he had copies of the memorandum pasted on the doors of most city hall offices.

The order instructs employees to use air-conditioners only three hours every day.

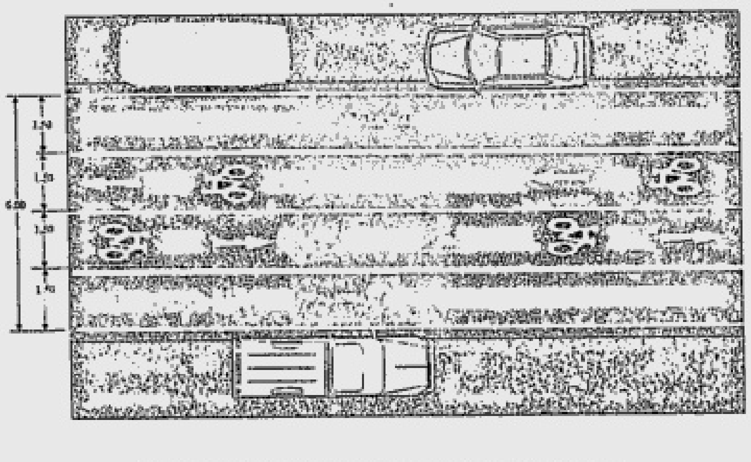
The memorandum said "air-conditioning units are to be opened (from) 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (and from) 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m." during work days—and only if their bosses are around.

Office lights have to be turned off during lunch breaks in order to achieve 15 percent savings.

Bike lane project suffers delay; MMDA unfazed


TYPICAL TWO SIDE ONE DIRECTIONAL BIKE LANE *PILOT LOCATION: E. ABADA ST.*

GRAPHICS above and below show the layout of bike and walk ways that will connect Edsa with Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City.


TYPICAL WALKWAY AND BIKEWAY DEDICATED ROAD
PILOT LOCATION: K-6 ST.

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IT WAS A WELCOME REPRIEVE FOR THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

President Macapagal-Arroyo was supposed to launch today the MMDA's bike lane and walkway pilot project in Quezon City but since the Chief Executive was still abroad, the launching had to be postponed for Sept. 24.

The postponement gave the MMDA one more week to prepare for the launch.

Ms Arroyo, who supports the walk and pedal ways project, was scheduled to come home at dawn tomorrow, arriving from a United Nations summit in New York.

The change in schedule seemed a welcome development for the MMDA since the agency's traffic engineering office has yet to finish the 3.6-kilometer pilot lanes along Xavierville Avenue in Quezon City.

"We have cleared the sidewalk and will begin the installation of signages and lane markings on Monday. Had it [launching] not been rescheduled, we would have been busy cramming since Monday," said Ramon Ona, chief engineer of the MMDA Traffic Engineering Center (TEC).

Edsa-Katipunan connection

The bike route will connect Katipunan Avenue with Edsa.

Pink and white thermoplastic or heat-applied paint will be used to set off the bike lanes, which will be about 1.3 meters wide. Bikeways will be placed on either side of the road on some portions, and on one side in others, with ample space for vehicles.

Streets traversed by the bike ways, including the secondary roads K10 and K6 Streets, will be "dedicated" as walk and pedal ways said Ona. Only residents will be allowed to bring their vehicles and park on the sidewalk.

The MMDA based its walk and bike ways technical design on standards established in Japan, and in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington D.C. in the United States.

"We based them on standards with some modifications to adapt to the local situation," said Ona.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the government of Quezon City had been helping the agency look for streets to include in the project.

METROBRIEFS

Rallies blamed for car theft

IF CAR thefts are on the rise in Quezon City, the police have militant groups and other advocacy groups to blame. Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr. said the upsurge of car theft cases in the city may be attributed partly to the recent protest rallies against the government. Demonstrations took up too much of the police's time, which would otherwise have been spent solving street crimes, the city police chief told Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. Radovan said that from January to August, 248 car thefts were recorded in the city, as opposed to 241 for the same period last year. *DJ Yap*

Hungry Caloocan thieves

NAGUTOM SA PAGNANAKAW!

NOT CONTENT with taking P20,000 and $1,200 from the office of a retired judge, robbers also ransacked a building canteen in Caloocan City and carted away several kilos of processed food the other day. In a police report, robbers broke into the office of former Caloocan City Judge Silvestre H. Bello Jr. at the ground floor Genato Building along Rizal Avenue. Bello, police said, is the father of former justice secretary and present peace talks negotiator Silvestre H. Bello III. The robbers, investigators said, were able to enter Bello's office through a broken window by removing a temporary wood cover. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Religious tour to Korea

FR. OSCAR Orbos, S.V.D., leads a pilgrimage to Naju, Korea, from Sept. 20 to 25 to meet visionary Julia Kim. The highlight of the 60-day pilgrimage will be the visit to the Naju Blessed Mother's House which has the image of the Blessed Mother owned by Julia Kim. The image reportedly sheds tears, giving messages and wondrous signs that include tears, tears of blood, fragrance of roses, fragrant oil, and miraculous healing of various illnesses. The tour costs $1,225 plus per person on twin sharing and is open to a minimum of 30 persons. For information call Creative Travel House, Inc. at 844-6011, 843-7997, 845-3500.

Imelda and Kamag-anak Inc.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NOW IT'S OUT: FORMER President Cory Aquino is the reason Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos sided with President Macapagal-Arroyo in the oust-Gloria campaign.

Ms Aquino is at the forefront of the movement to have GMA resign or ousted through impeachment.

In this country, old wounds are not forgotten even if they've long healed. Filipinos, although mostly Christians, do not easily forget what their enemies have done to them.

In the case of the Aquinos and the Marcoses, the enmity will be there for a long, long time.

Cory Aquino, supposedly a devout Catholic, started it all when she became vindictive toward the Marcoses when she was in power.

She couldn't forgive and forget what the dictator Marcos supposedly did to her husband.

To Ms Aquino, nothing the Marcoses did was good even if some of their deeds benefited the nation.

She even refused to have Ferdinand Marcos buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, in violation of the Filipino custom of forgiving a dead person for his sins.

Now, it's time for the matriarch Imelda Marcos to get back at Cory. And Imee Marcos' siding with GMA in obedience to her mother's wish is the start of the payback.

* * *

Imelda's jewels, worth $20 million, are up for sale by Christie's auction house in London.

The jewels were confiscated by the US government from the Marcoses when they landed in Hawaii after being driven out by People Power in 1986.

The jewels were turned over to Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

But don't you know that those jewels are just the tip of the iceberg? Had the PCGG done its job of confiscating the Marcos properties, the government could have acquired more Marcos wealth.

When the Marcos family hurriedly left Malacañang, they left behind items more expensive than the ones confiscated from them in Hawaii.

Many of those items, including jewelry, were looted by people who got to Malacañang in the first hours after the departure of the Marcoses.

One of the looters was allegedly a relative of a personality who became a top government official during the Aquino administration.

After Ms Aquino took power, relatives of that top official also reportedly looted the mansions of the Marcoses in Metro Manila and the provinces. In Tacloban, other relatives of this official looted the Sto. Niño Shrine where expensive paintings and jewelry were stored.

You know who those relatives are. The late columnist Louie Beltran referred to them collectively as "Kamag-anak Inc."

GENYO AT MANILA INT'L BOOK FAIR

PRES
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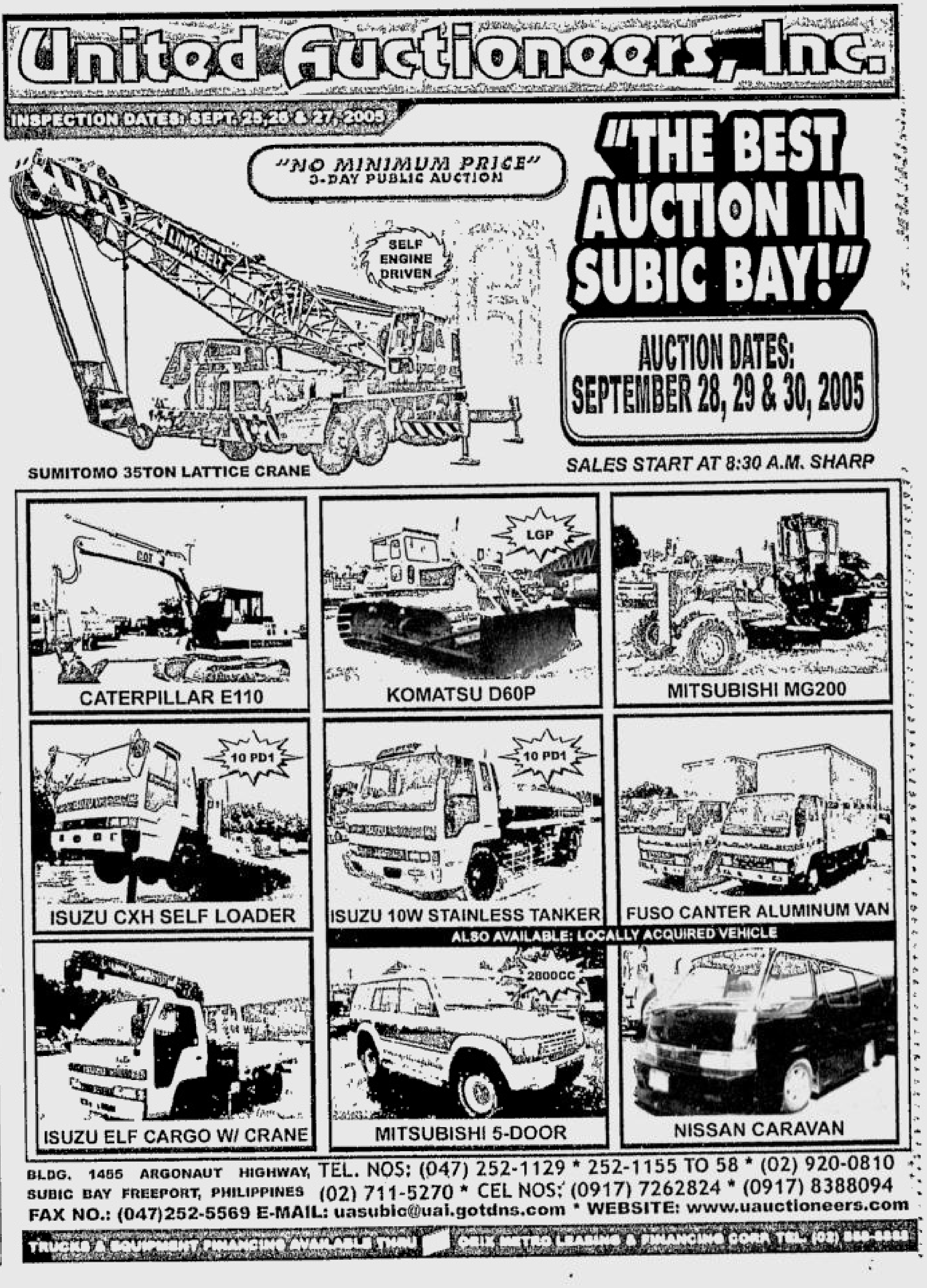
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San Mateo landfill eyed for power project

By Abigail L. Ho

IN AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW THAT waste can turn into profit, the Philippine National Oil Co. said yesterday that it is eyeing the San Mateo landfill in Rizal province for its landfill gas-to-power project.

PNOC energy research department manager Victorino Bala said drilling work had already begun at the San Mateo dump to test its power potential.

The state firm already has a similar project in place at the Payatas landfill in Quezon City, said PNOC president Eduardo Mañalac.

In partnership with the Quezon City local government and a private investor, the project involved the installation of a landfill gas collection system and a 1-megawatt (MW) electric power generator at the Payatas dump.

Bala said a 110-kilowatt power generator was already running at the site. This would later be expanded to 1 MW to supply the power requirements of Payatas residents.

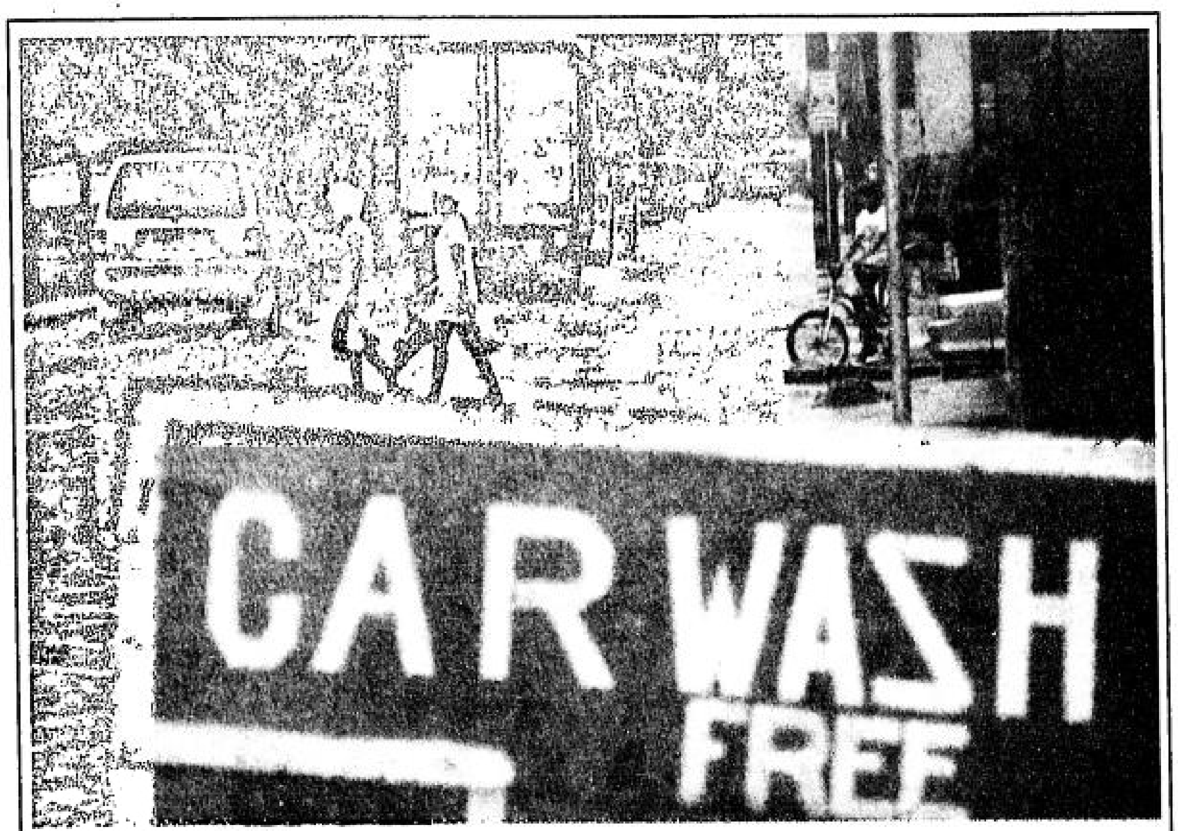
Apart from being able to use garbage for something as useful as providing electricity to a community, Bala added that the project could also generate cash through carbon credits.

Some 385,000 tons worth of carbon credits had already been generated from the project, he said. Japan had been buying these for about $5-$6 a ton.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, credits would be generated by firms that invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency, improved land use, forestry and agricultural practices, and methane control programs.

These credits can then be traded for or developed into more formal financial instruments such as bonds, guarantees, credit lines or funds.

The concept of emission credit trading stemmed from the need to curb a greenhouse gas buildup. The Kyoto Protocol requires developed countries to limit their greenhouse gas emissions. To be able to meet their Kyoto commitments, these countries are allowed to purchase carbon credits that they can use to offset their excess carbon emission.



TRICK OR TREAT!
Passing vehicles ignore a "Free car wash" sign along Boni Avenue in Mandaluyong City at the height of a heavy downpour yesterday. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Makati drugs drive experience hailed

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOW DID YOU DO IT?

Officials from Malaysia and Sri Lanka had this question for Makati City officials when the city was hailed for its effective campaign against illegal drugs in a recent international anti-drug conference in scenic Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

"The enthusiasm showed by participants from other Asian countries show that we are on the right track and that our experiences can be shared not only with other local government units in the Philippines, but in Asia as well," said Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado in a statement.

Representatives from Sri Lanka and Malaysia were curious about Makati's anti-drug program after the city was presented as an example of the Philippines' "Best Practices" experience at the 2nd International Conference/Workshop on Asian Cities Against Drugs by helping eradicate the drug menace.

Malaysia and Sri Lanka apparently wanted to learn Makati's "secret," and invited officials of the Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council (MADAC) to their respective countries to share with them pointers about the local campaign.

Ever since MADAC cracked down on drug use and peddling in the city's neighborhoods, 30 of Makati's 33 barangays had been declared drug-free.

Makati's local anti-drug campaign included the clustering of barangays, which multiplied its forces by enjoining barangay officials and civilian volunteers in anti-drug operations.

During the conference, MADAC officials also talked about the recent creation of the Association of Metro Manila Anti-Drug Abuse Council (AM-MADAC), a coordinating body of the Metro's anti-drug councils which would merge local efforts against drug use and peddling.

The local anti-drug body covers all matters related to drug abuse and peddling, including apprehension through buy-bust operations and raids, aid during prosecution, rehabilitation of drug users, and a wide-reaching information campaign.

Wanted: deserving cops for TOPM award

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR THE most outstanding policemen in the city of Manila.

The Manila Police District (MPD) and the Manila Chinatown Lions Club launched the search yesterday during a meeting at the Pan Pacific Hotel.

MPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong emphasized that the Ten Outstanding Policemen of Manila or TOPM was one of the Lions Club's continuing efforts to recognize deserving and loyal policemen in the Manila police force.

"Despite the fact that we lack police manpower, we were able to bring down the crime rate in Manila by 15.57 percent for the second quarter of 2005," the police chief added.

The TOPM award is open to all qualified Manila policemen who put their lives on the line every time duty calls, he explained.

Chinatown Lions Club president Fahad Al Khuzeem said the selection process has been set from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

The awards ceremony is scheduled on Nov. 11 at the Jumbo Kingdom floating restaurant.

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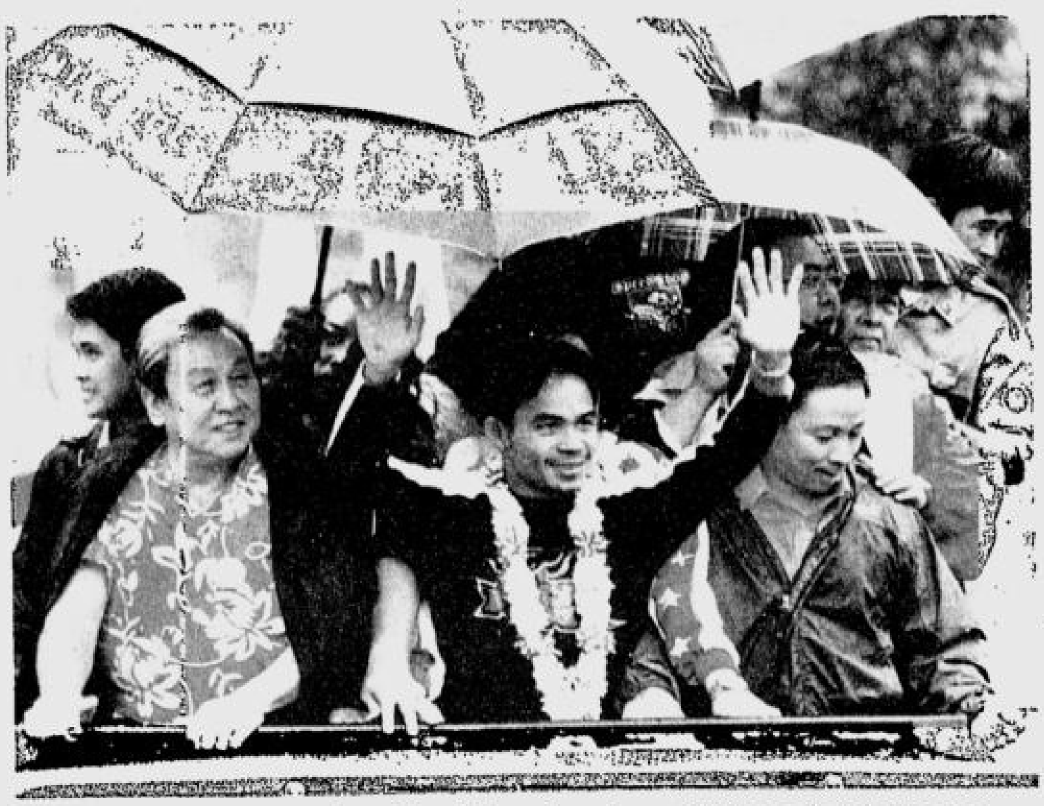

HEAVY rains fail to dampen the spirits of Manny Pacquiao and his fans as he is borne on a motorcade around the city of Manila yesterday morning. Mayor Lito Atienza (left), son Kim and City Hall officials laid out the red carpet to honor the city's adopted son who knocked out Mexico's Hector Velazquez in the sixth round in Los Angeles last Sunday. REM ZAMORA

New Pacquiao campaigns for nat'l unity

By Tina G. Santos

RETURNING TO A TUMULTUOUS welcome in rainy weather, Manny Pacquiao yesterday sprang a happy surprise when he announced he has reformed and would work for national unity.

Hounded by reports of his nocturnal forays to cockfighting arenas and billiard parlors, Pacquiao vowed to "change my ways, in fact, I'm now reading the inspirational book 'The Purpose-Driven Life.'"

"*Salamat sa inyong dasal para manalo ako* (Thank you for your prayers)," he said during a press conference at the Manila City Hall. "*Sana tuluyan nang magkaisa ang mga Pilipino* (I hope Filipinos will finally unite)."

The Manila city government, led by Mayor Lito Atienza, rolled out the red carpet for Pacquiao, who thrilled the nation when he stopped Mexican Hector Velazquez in the sixth round of a scheduled 12-round super featherweight bout in Los Angeles last Sunday.

Red, white and blue confetti fell as Pacquiao, an adopted son of Manila, returned to the cheers of adoring fans who lined up the streets in the rain.

Mayor Atienza said Pacquiao's victory provided Filipinos with a welcome respite from months-long political crisis.

"His victory gave us respite from political hatred," Atienza said.

No less than his lovely wife would confirm Pacquiao has indeed changed his ways.

"*Matagal ko na namang napatunayan na nagbago na sya,*" his wife Jinkee commented, eliciting shrieks from the crowd.

Bohol roars as Boom Boom assures he's not from Cebu

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

CANDIJAY, BOHOL—IT TOOK SENSATIONAL Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista three rounds to stop his Colombian foe in California on Sunday, but he wasted no time Thursday to assure swarming Boholanos he did not migrate to Cebu and has remained their very own.

Bautista, who sparked the three-tiered knockout celebration by Filipino boxers in the United States last weekend, made the assurance upon touching down in Tagbilaran, en route to this sleepy municipality where he was born to poor farmer parents 19 years ago.

Candijay Mayor Sergio Amora Jr. led students and local residents in welcoming their newly minted hero, as he made his way to the town's *poblacion* and into the municipal building lawn where a program awaited him.

"This is the biggest welcome we have prepared so far for a local resident in this town's history," said municipal health officer Acindino Tan in an interview with Cebu Daily News. "Everybody has been talking about this."

Bautista's scheduled two-hour trip to his hometown, some 93 km east of Tagbilaran, stretched to three hours as his convoy had to make stopovers in Guindulman and Jagna to allow fans to shake hands and kiss him.

"This trip is very special to us Boholanos because our son is coming home from a big victory," said Abap's Nemesio Monton, who organized the trip starting from Tagbilaran.

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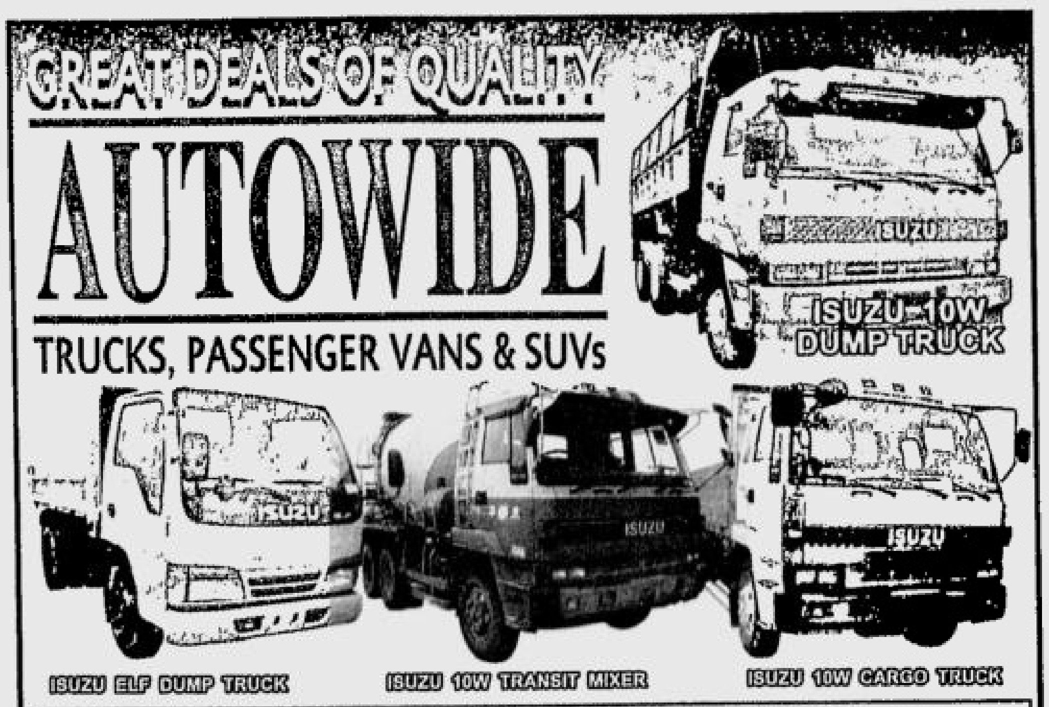

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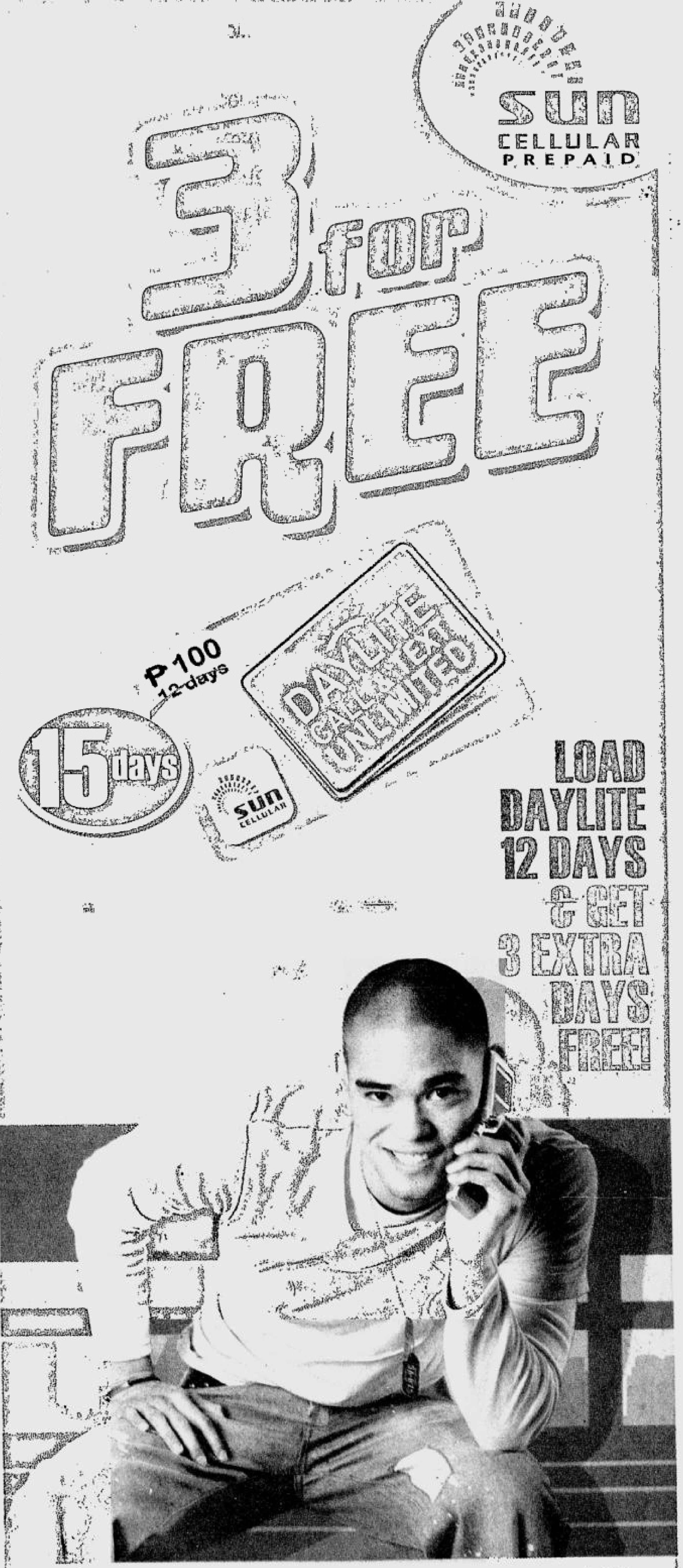
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Rookies take backseat to PBA imports

By June Navarro

IMPORTS ARE SUPPOSED TO SPICE UP THE COMPETItion in the Philippine Basketball Association. But most of the time, they end up as the main dish at the expense of the locals.

A ranking league official yesterday said that the recent rookie draft would serve its purpose better should the import-laced tournament in the first conference be held as the season-ending conference instead.

"The coming conference should showcase rookies rather than imports," said the official who requested anonymity.

Scheduled to begin on Oct. 2, the two-conference calendar of the 31st PBA season will kick off with the reinforced conference followed by an all-Filipino tournament in the latter half of the season.

"The presence of imports defeats the purpose of having a draft before the season," the source said.

He explained that instead of giving rookies more opportunities for maximum exposure, a large portion of the players' playing time goes to the import instead.

"When the all-Filipino conference comes, the mystery and excitement are gone since the fans have already watched the rookies in the first conference," he added.

Rookies Anthony Washington and Mac Cardona of Talk 'N Text, Sta. Lucia Realty's Alex Cabagnot and Cesar Catli, Coke's Dennis Miranda, Jondan Salvador of Purefoods, Air21's Niño Canaleta, Red Bull's Larry Fonacier, Leo Najorda and Paolo Bugia are the promising rookies whose talent will have to take the backseat in the first conference.

Air21 has taken in Sean Daniels as import, Alaska has Tee McClary, Sta. Lucia Realty will bank on Lenny Cooke while Talk 'N Text is reportedly hooking up with its former import Damien Cantrell.

Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis said his import, Alex Carcamo, is arriving today. Purefoods has gotten the services of Marquin Chandler, Barangay Ginebra got Mustapha Hoff and San Miguel is reportedly testing Rico Hill to beef the Beermen up. Red Bull Barako is still scouting for an import.

Eagles' loss leaves Black in the dark

By Jasmine W. Payo

RANGED AGAINST THEIR BITter rivals, the La Salle Archers showed laser-like focus.

"We came out aggressive and we came really prepared," said coach Franz Pumaren after his Archers completed an elimination-round sweep over the Ateneo Eagles, 72-55, in front of another sellout crowd last Thursday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We scouted them well," added Pumaren. "Look at our size. Compared to their team, we're so small. But we compensated with hard work and extra effort."

Pumaren, though, wasn't expecting a repeat of their lopsided 78-60 first-round triumph over the Eagles.

In fact, the hauntingly similar results also confounded Ateneo coach Norman Black.

"We just played bad," said the multititled mentor. "I'm happy with our performance all season, but not until this game."

Although the Eagles failed in their bid to claim the remaining twice-to-beat advantage, Black remained optimistic.

"Our only problem right now is we had a chance to come in second and we let that one go," said Black. "But we're now here in the Final Four. We have to win two games to make it to the Finals, but at least we have a chance."

GAMES SUNDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—FEU
vs Ateneo (Women)
4 p.m.—UE
vs La Salle (Srs)

The Archers, meanwhile, can still claim the semifinal bonus if they win over the University of the East Warriors on Sunday in a game ordered replayed last week.

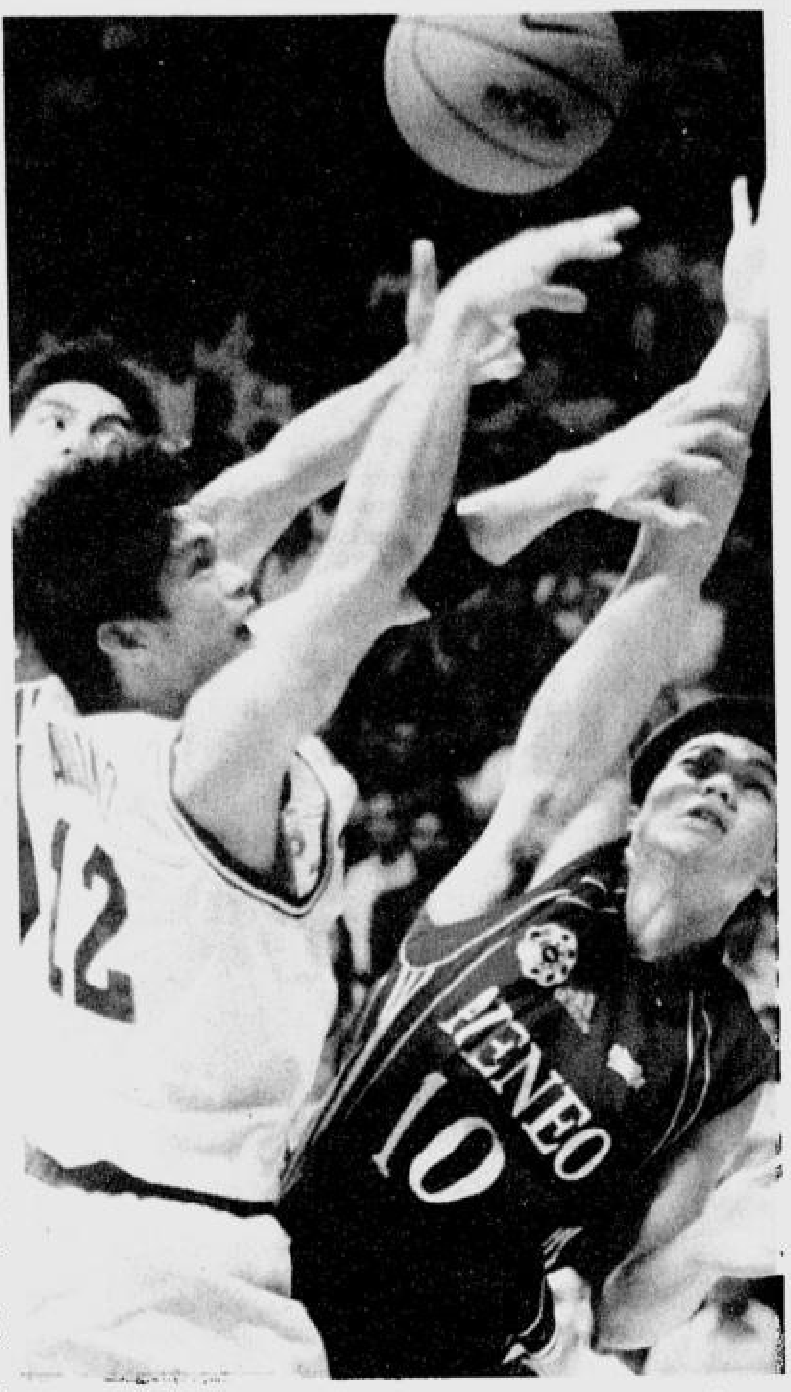
A La Salle win would forge a three-way tie at 10-4 among the Archers, Warriors and the Eagles, but the defending champions would clinch the No. 2 slot due to a superior quotient.

Pumaren, naturally, wouldn't want his boys to let their guard down.

"There's no room for us to be complacent even if I'm happy with where we are right now," said Pumaren. "I'm so proud of my players. We're just peaking at the right time."

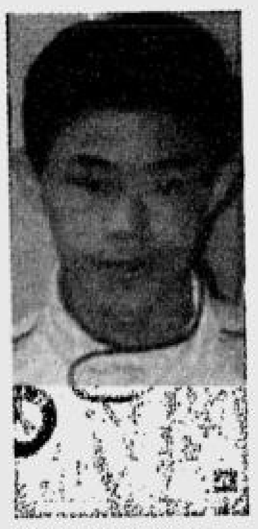
Far Eastern U already claimed the first twice-to-beat incentive earlier Thursday, and as the top team will face the No. 4 squad in the Final Four.

If the Archers lose, they get the Tams as semifinal foes, with UE and Ateneo clashing in the other duel for the second title slot.



LA SALLE'S JR Aquino fires off Ateneo's JC Intal and Martin Quimson in their UAAP game Thursday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

RP's Sy dominates AF3 practice



SY: Another crack

BOGOR, INDONESIA—PICKING UP FROM where he left off last month, Filipino teener Tyson Sy emerged as the fastest in practice runs on Thursday as he pressed his bid for a breakthrough win in the Asian Formula Three series at the Sentul International Circuit here.

Despite clocking the fastest time of one 3 minute, 24.6 seconds at the 4.3-kilometer track, however, the 17-year-old Sy, lead driver of Speedtech Asia, refused to be carried away, aware that a slightest miscalculation or a quick change in fortunes could again ruin his bid to end an RP victory drought in the nation-hopping series visiting Indonesia for the second time this year.

The battle for pole position in the 9th round of the series will be held Saturday after another series of practice runs Friday. The actual races will be held Sunday, with the 9th round set in the morning and the 10th round of the 12-leg series slated in the afternoon.

Twelve of the 13 drivers competing here tested the circuit Thursday, with another Filipino young gun, Dado Peña, 18, of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia consistently coming up second fastest behind Sy. In the second of three sessions, Peña clocked 1:25.2, just ahead of Indon series leader Ananda Mikola of Fastron Racing with Threebond.

Irishman John O'Hara of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO was fourth fastest in 1:25.5, followed by Macanese Rodolfo Avila of Christian Jones Motorsport (1:25.6), Australian Christian Jones (1:26.0), Briton James Winslow of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO (1:26.1), Indon Moreno Soeprapto of Denso Hanjin Formula 3 (1:26.7), Filipino Pepon Marave of Shell Helix (1:27.0), Irishman Lee Farrell of Shell Helix (1:27.2), Irishman Greg Murphy of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia (1:28.8) and Filipino Mike Tuason (1:35.0).

Enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net and www.pldtymypad.com for more details.

Sy will go into the qualifying session with 61 points in a tie for fifth and sixth places with Peña.

Cavite cagers turn back Spring Laguna

CAVITE BANKED ON THE LATE HEROICS OF Christian Coronel and Buboy Rodriguez to nip Spring Cooking Oil-supported Laguna, 70-68, Thursday at the start of their best-of-three semifinal series in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Washington gym in Makati City.

Coronel knocked in the winning lay-up with 2.7 seconds left after Rodriguez's triple had capped the Far Eastern Insurance-backed Caviteños' rally at the one-minute mark.

It was a sorry loss for the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, who led for 39 minutes until Rodriguez produced his only basket of the game.

Coronel's winning shot came after Spring's Val Domingo, the most valuable player in the recent 9th Crown Prince Cup tournament in Thailand, had tied the game for the last time at 68 with three free throws.

Spring swept Baguio in two games to make the semifinals of the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The scores:

CAVITE 70—Estrada 15, Diaz 13, Origuerra 10, Basco 9, Coronel 6, Booker 6, Rodriguez 4, Sierra 4, Mopera 3.

LAGUNA 68—Domingo 15, Nuqui 12, Villamin 11, Reyes 7, Kalaw 6, Latoreno 4, Manuel 4, Mallari 3, Manucat 2, Corbin 2, Procaso 2.

Quarters: 8-13, 28-34, 48-53, 70-68

Leviste tops Malaysia riding tilt

VETERAN EQUESTRIENNE TONI LEViste underscored her status as Philippine team spearhead by dominating the recently concluded Premier Cup showjumping competition held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, recently.

Riding for Team Globe Platinum in partnership with Sony Ericsson, Leviste steered her string of horses, Globe Platinum Maktub, Globe Platinum Tosca and the always reliable Globe Platinum Leap of Faith to victory during the event held in honor of former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad.

A known equestrian enthusiast, Mahathir is known for his generous support for the sport not only in his country, but in the region as well.

Leviste's success came on the heels of her recent victories in the Malaysian Open showjumping competition last month where she ruled the Asian Showjumping League and the second leg of the World Cup Qualifiers Asian League.

The daughter of former Batangas governor Antonio J. Leviste and teammates Joker Arroyo, the 17-year-old daughter of Sen. Joker Arroyo, and 1995 SEAG gold medalist Juan Ramon Lanza are training and competing in the Southeast Asian World Cup League in Malaysia in preparation for the SEA Games to be held in Manila in December.

The fourth member of the team, 22-year-old Paola Zobel, is currently training in Spain and will proceed directly to Manila with her horse just before the SEAG.

The Philippine equestrian squad is expected to bag the team and individual gold medal during the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Games.

TONI Leviste clears an obstacle on board Globe Platinum Leap of Faith.

WW President's Cup tees off today

WACK WACK HONORS BENJAMIN S. Abalos for the fifth straight year with the holding today of the President's Cup, an 18-hole event featuring a banner field of over 120 players made up of members, their dependents and guests.

A former caddy at the fabled East course in the 1940s and '50s, Abalos, also chair of the Commission on Elections and former mayor of Mandaluyong, is serving a third term as club president.

The tournament is Abalos' way of giving some of his former caddy-brothers the break he got in the past. His life story serving as an inspiration for the launching of the National Caddies' Open, Abalos will fete the first batch of winners of that event in the awards rite later in the day.

Businessman Ernesto Tanchi, Abalos' former boss, will be in the field that will tee off shotgun style at the West course.

Pagcor, Korean Community, the Herma Group of Companies, Dream TV, ABC 5, Unilever, San Miguel Corp., Splash Manufacturing, Intel-SWIMS, Globe and Samsung are the major sponsors.

Northwest Airlines, Toyota Balintawak, Kart Plaza/Yamaha, The Turf Company/Club Car, and GNC Products are hole-in-one prize donors.

Get up and soar, MVP chides Ateneo

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

MOST EYES must've been on Ateneo Godfather Manny V. Pangilinan when the final buzzer sounded signaling the official conquest of the Blue Eagles by the Archers, 72-55, last Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum. Observers said he was in high spirits at the start of the game and was even singing.

Curiously, MVP did not raise a clenched fist as he always did when Ateneo's college hymn was played. Was there a meaning to this?

Was he that deeply disappointed?

MVP would admit it was a frustrating game for him, personally, "and I'm sure, for the Ateneo players, coaches and community as well."

"We were just unplugged that day," he said. "I've seen it happen even for professionals like Talk 'N Text. Something was missing with Ateneo—that undefinable jiggery-pokery that moves you, propels you to victory."

With La Salle's very first shot, MVP had sensed the danger.

"The Archers played with a focused mission and with a lot of heart. Theirs was a victory earned, ours was a defeat deserved. Still, there is a tomorrow, and I am quite certain we will learn from the experience. If anything, the "Arana gig should remind us Ateneans that there is a score to settle," MVP explained, as he urged Ateneans to get back to their feet and soar.

"Why didn't I raise my hand? My heart was too heavy to do anything else. Purely biological, Beth. Nothing to read into it," MVP said.

* * *

If he lives up to expectations, Santa Lucia's Alex Cabagnot is on the path to PBA stardom, if not superstardom.

Frankly, I'd visualized him to look like a cocky, arrogant hardcourt villain, until we met face-to-face last Wednesday when he was presented by SLR governor Buddy Encarnado to the press.

Alex Jr., or Jeff, as he is called by kin, exudes an angelic aura. He is good looking in a boyish sort of way and shy. I could almost detect fear in his eyes. Surely there was a halo hovering somewhere over his head which I just couldn't see.

* * *

Until Jampy Flores of Vancouver, Canada, pointed it out to me, I didn't realize that three of the four teams in the ongoing Doha, Qatar FIBA-Asia Men's Championship semis are being coached by foreigners.

"China has a Lithuanian mentor while Qatar and Lebanon hired Americans. Only Korea is being coached by a Korean," wrote Jampy.

"Interesting. Maybe we should take the cue and also start hiring the best coaches, regardless of nationality. We have to elevate our knowledge against the competition by learning from the best."

Incidentally, our own national coach, Chot Reyes, is currently in Doha with assistant Aboy Castro, doing scouting work.

For what tournament, no one can tell for sure.

* * *

For Philippine-born Marco Selorio, founder/manager of Hoopdreamz, an events and media outfit based in Sydney, Australia, it is a dream come true to get all his retired PBA idols to play in the Land Down Under.

"Imagine this dream team: Alvin Patrimonio, Allan Caidic, Hector Calma, Samboy Lim, Bong Alvarez, Jojo Lastimosa, Jerry Codiñera, Ato Agustin, Manny Victorino and Chito Loyzaga. They're all coming over this month to play a series of exhibition games against local teams here in the event we've called "The Philippine Basketball Legends Tour. The Filipino community can hardly wait. It's a first in Australia," wrote Marco, a fine example of a Filipino who made good abroad.

Coming on the heels of the Legends tour is a hip-hop dance competition called Groove, another Selorio project. Twenty-four finalists from all over Australia are joining the contest.

* * *

Cager Jimmy Alapag couldn't make it to the opening of the Spaghetti Factory restaurant at SM Manila, which he co-owns with girlfriend LJ Moreno and her family (father Ruel Ricafort, and brother Francis) but we hardly missed him. LJ was such a perfect host she instantly made us feel at home even if we had met her only for the first time.

LJ said they had wanted to move the launch date when Talk 'N Text suddenly scheduled a tune-up series in Australia that conflicted with the event. However, the invitations had already been sent out by then. Many show biz stars attended the affair but I didn't see a single sports personality.

Spaghetti Factory serves more than 100 dishes, all affordable, which are inspired by specialties from various regions in Italy and other countries.

SOS: Lights out in Paglaum

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE 2005 PHILIPPINE Southeast Asian Games organizing committee yesterday blasted the Department of Education regional office in Bacolod City for delaying the renovation of the Paglaum sports stadium.

Rep. Monico Puentevella, also the weightlifting president, said workers could not install the lighting system worth P12 million for the football field because squatters refused to clear the area.

He said DepEd assistant secretary Camilo Montesa has already been given authority to evict the squatters but refuses to do so.

"They (DepEd) are jeopardizing the SEA Games preparations for Bacolod," Puentevella told the INQUIRER. "We have given them the request eight months ago and until now, with just three months to go, they haven't acted on it."

He said the DepEd imprimatur is needed for the eviction notice to be served on the squatters who have made Paglaum their home for years.

Bondad seals SEAG golf slot

By Musong R. Castillo

FRANCES Bondad, the former RP Ladies' champ, finally obtained her Philippine passport, paving the way for her inclusion to the national team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Australia, the 17-year-old, according to father Noel, was informed of the release of her passport by the National Golf Association of the Philippines last week.

"Frances is in great shape and is very excited to play for her motherland," Noel told the INQUIRER in an overseas call.

The SEAG will actually be Bondad's third tournament wearing the Philippine colors before the year ends.

Bondad will see action in The Spirits tournament, which includes only the Top 20 teams in the World Amateurs in Puerto Rico last year, in Houston, Texas, in the first week of October.

She is also expected to lead a crack field in the RP amateurs, where the NGAP will crown its first ever women's match play champion.

For inquiries, call (02) 5256987, (02) 5245160, 0920-9507514, 0917-5607074, or (034) 4411190.

Ginebra cagers in mall tour today

PBA FANS are expected to troop to Robinson's Galleria today to be with their favorite Barangay Ginebra players who will grace the PBA tour at the Robinsons chain of malls. Rodney Santos, Sunday Salvacion and Aris Dimaunahan will be on hand to treat the fans to a fun-filled afternoon beginning at 4 p.m. PBA cagers from various teams are touring Robinsons malls in conjunction with the celebration of the PBA's 30th anniversary. At the same time, San Miguel Beer players, led by Chris Calaguio, Paolo Hubalde and Francis Adriano, will visit Robinsons in Angeles City to meet their supporters. The tour also serves as part of the buildup for the league's Oct. 2 season opening.

4 entries top Makati derby

FOUR favored entries shared top honors in the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-Stag Derby at the Makati Coliseum recently. Posting identical 4-1 (win-loss) slates are Binangonan of Gov. Ito Yñares and former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Fajinfer of Jet Fernando, Blue Blade Joke Joke Joke of Gerry Ramos and Golden Link Yra of Blandy Tolentino. The third PCAP 5-stag derby sizzles on Monday with more than 70 fights lined up. Action starts at 4 p.m. Submission of weights is tomorrow, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 8963545 and 8956475. Meanwhile, the WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. is readying the P3-million Pamaskong Salpukan 6-Cock Derby in December.

RMC 6-stag fights begin

MORE than 300 gamefowl breeders from the North and the South are seeing action in today's "Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone at Roligon Mega Cockpit. At stake is a guaranteed prize of at least P1.5 million for an entry fee of only P8,800. The annual event was transferred to Roligon due to the big number of entries, said derby host Edgar Coronel, who will be assisted by pit managers Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. Last year, 375 entries competed with Fred Reyes of San Jacinto, Pangasinan, bagging the crown. Slated today is the 2-stag first round.

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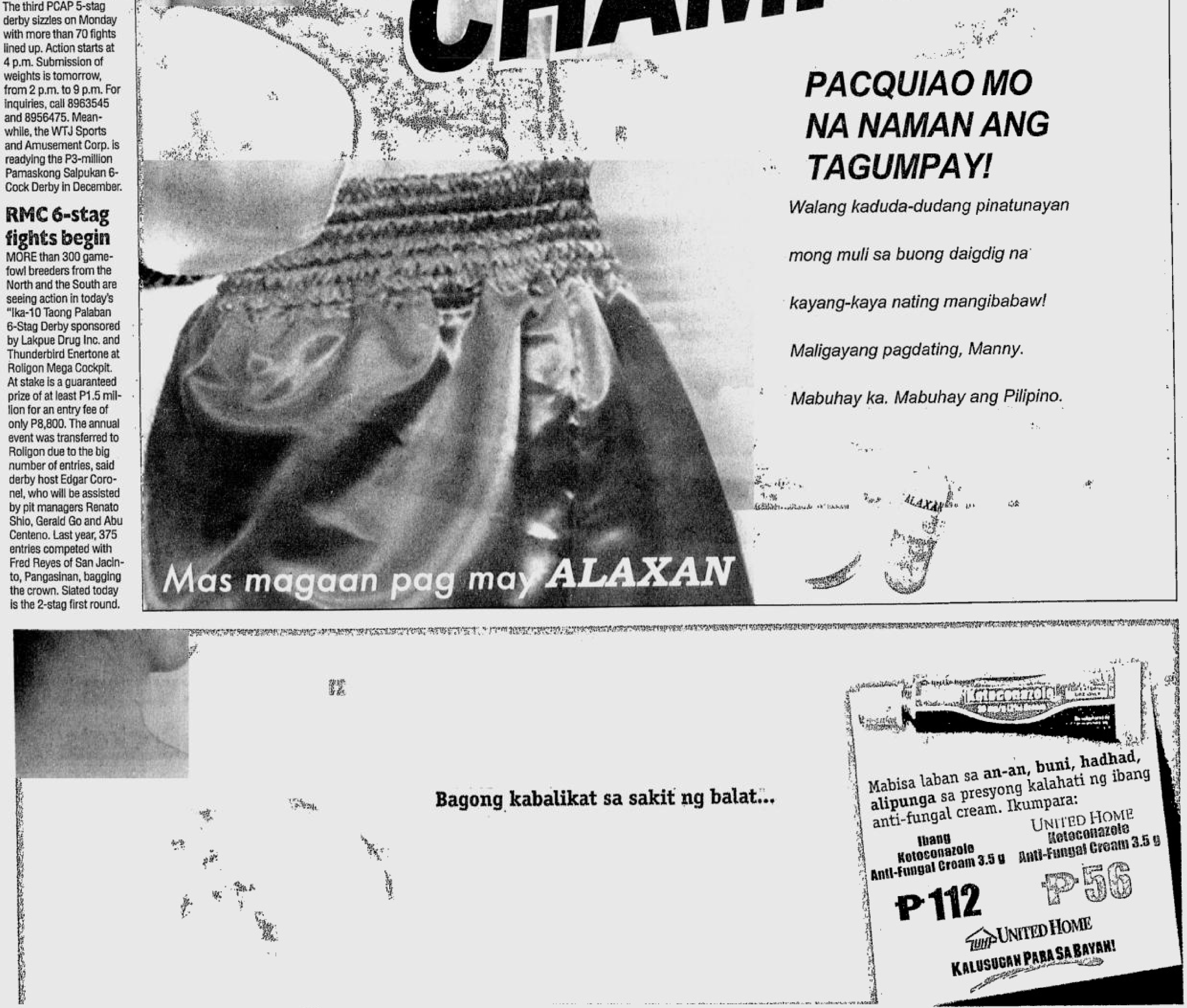
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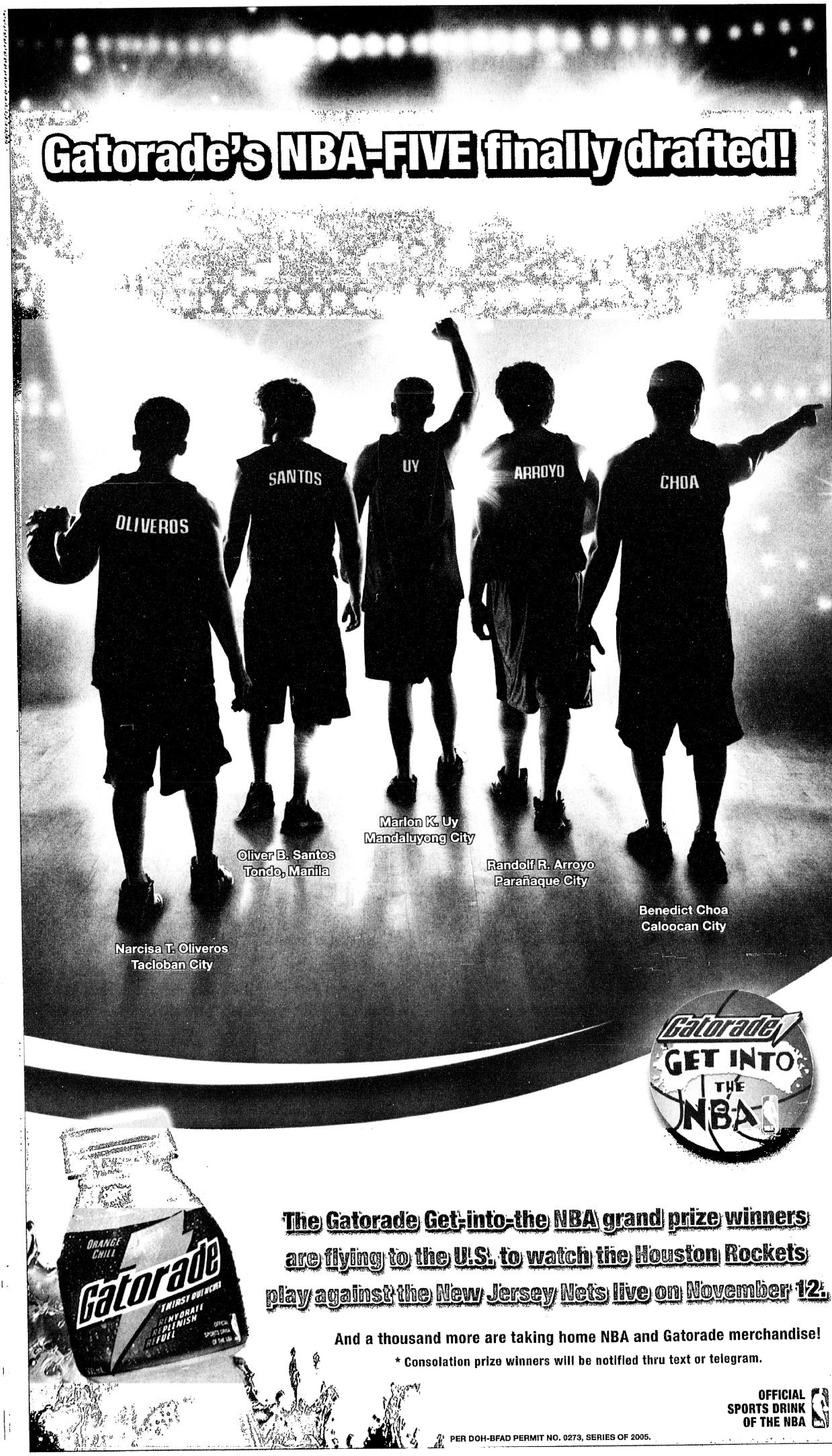
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* Consolation prize winners will be notified thru text or telegram.

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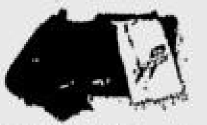

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Tandang Sora, Quezon City
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Minalin, Pampanga
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Bayan-bayanan, Malabon City
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Maurèsmo, Pierce unite for France in Fed Cup final

MAURESMO

PIERCE

PARIS—AMELIE MAURESMO AND Mary Pierce faced off for a place in the US Open semifinals last week. This weekend the French pair will be united against defending champion Russia in the Fed Cup final.

Pierce beat Mauresmo, 6-4, 6-1, in the US Open quarterfinals, and went on to lose a lopsided final to Kim Clijsters.

Together, they hope to help France win its third Fed Cup title and avenge November's 3-2 final-rubber defeat to Russia in Moscow.

Russia will be without world No. 1 Maria Sharapova, but the team still boasts 2004 French Open champion Anastasia Myskina and Elena Dementieva.

It will be the third straight year France and Russia have met and the eighth time overall in Fed Cup, dating back to 1985. Russia holds a 4-3 lead. *AP*

'Goose' wins; Monty ousted

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND—MARK HENSBY of Australia eliminated former winner Colin Montgomerie from the World Match Play Championship Thursday after facing a three-hole halfway deficit.

Hensby took advantage of some poor play by the Scot at the start of the second 18 to pull back to all square after 23 holes of their 36-hole first round contest.

The Australian then went ahead on the short 28th with a five-foot birdie putt and Montgomerie could not level. Birdies at the 34th and 35th clinched it for Hensby.

Top-seeded Retief Goosen beat Kenneth Ferrie, 8 and 7, and will face Hensby on Friday.

The third-seeded Luke Donald scored a decisive 7-and-6 victory over Bernhard Langer, the Ryder Cup captain who made Donald a wild card pick last year.

US Open champion Michael Campbell, seeded fourth, had to go to the 36th hole to beat Geoff Ogilvy, 1-up, after leading by six with 13 holes left.

In other matches, second-seeded Angel Cabrera beat Trevor Immelman, 2 and 1; Steve Elkington beat Tim Clark, 6 and 5; Paul McGinley beat Thomas Bjorn, 6 and 5; and Jose Maria Olazabal eagled the final hole to edge David Howell, 1-up.

Montgomerie won the first hole against Hensby and was 4-up after 13. He lost three in a row but an eagle-birdie finish put him 3-up at lunch.

But the Scot, who won the title in 1999, bogeyed three of the first five holes in the afternoon.

"I kind of took advantage of it," said Hensby, third in the Masters and fifth in the US Open.

Goosen, ranked fifth, said after his one-sided win over Ferrie that he still had ambitions to climb higher in the world standings.

"Obviously I would like to see if I can move into that Big Four category, but then they will probably change it to the Big Three," he said with a laugh. *AP*

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Cardinals whip Cubs, clinch NL Central

CHICAGO—Jeff Suppan allowed six hits over eight-plus innings and St. Louis beat Chicago, 6-1, on Thursday to clinch the National League Central for the fourth time in six years. The game was called with two outs in the bottom of the ninth after a 58-minute rain delay. The Cardinals, who lost to the Boston Red Sox in the World Series last year, are the first team to clinch a playoff berth this season. The victory over the Cubs coupled with Atlanta's 6-4 win over Philadelphia gave St. Louis (94-54) the division title because Houston could at best match the Cardinals at 94 wins. St. Louis has the tiebreaker because it clinched the season series against the Astros. Other matches: Braves 6, Phillies 4; Astros 4, Marlins 1; Atros a 3-0 lead. Brewers 14, Diamondbacks 2; Nationals 6, Mets 5; Dodgers 7, Giants 1. *AP*

On-course scare as Toms rushed to hospital

FARMINGTON, Pennsylvania—Shaun Micheel could be forgiven as a potentially great round turned into a very good one at the 84 Lumber Classic on Thursday. Once playing partner David Toms was rushed to a hospital with a racing pulse, Micheel had a lot more on his mind than golf. Micheel was in the midst of cutting eight shots off par during a remarkable nine-hole stretch when Toms—a former US PGA champion—became white-faced, dropped to his knee complaining of a rapid heartbeat and was rushed off the course in an ambulance. Toms was listed in good condition at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh on Thursday night. Earlier in the evening, the hospital gave Toms' condition as critical. *AP*

Bohol roars . . .

From page A19

Monton, along with his fellow Boholanos, was ecstatic to hear Bautista promptly make a clarification at the Tagbilaran City Hall. Bautista announced that he will be a Boholano forever, saying, "*Dili man jud ko Cebuano oy, Boholano man jud tawon ko makita man sa ako panit*," thereby soothing negative sentiments caused by the statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who said during a congratulatory call to California that Bautista was from Cebu.

After a short program for the young boxing star, onlookers, including high school students, took turns in having their photos taken with the charismatic Asia-Pacific bantamweight champ who stopped Colombia's Felix Flores Murillo in three rounds to usher in Brian Viloria and Manny Pacquiao into the RP knockout parade.

Earlier on Thursday, Bautista and his manager Tony Aldeguer were given a rousing welcome at the Tagbilaran port, where a drum-and-bugle corps played beats for the champ.

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③ RED EYE MTRCB PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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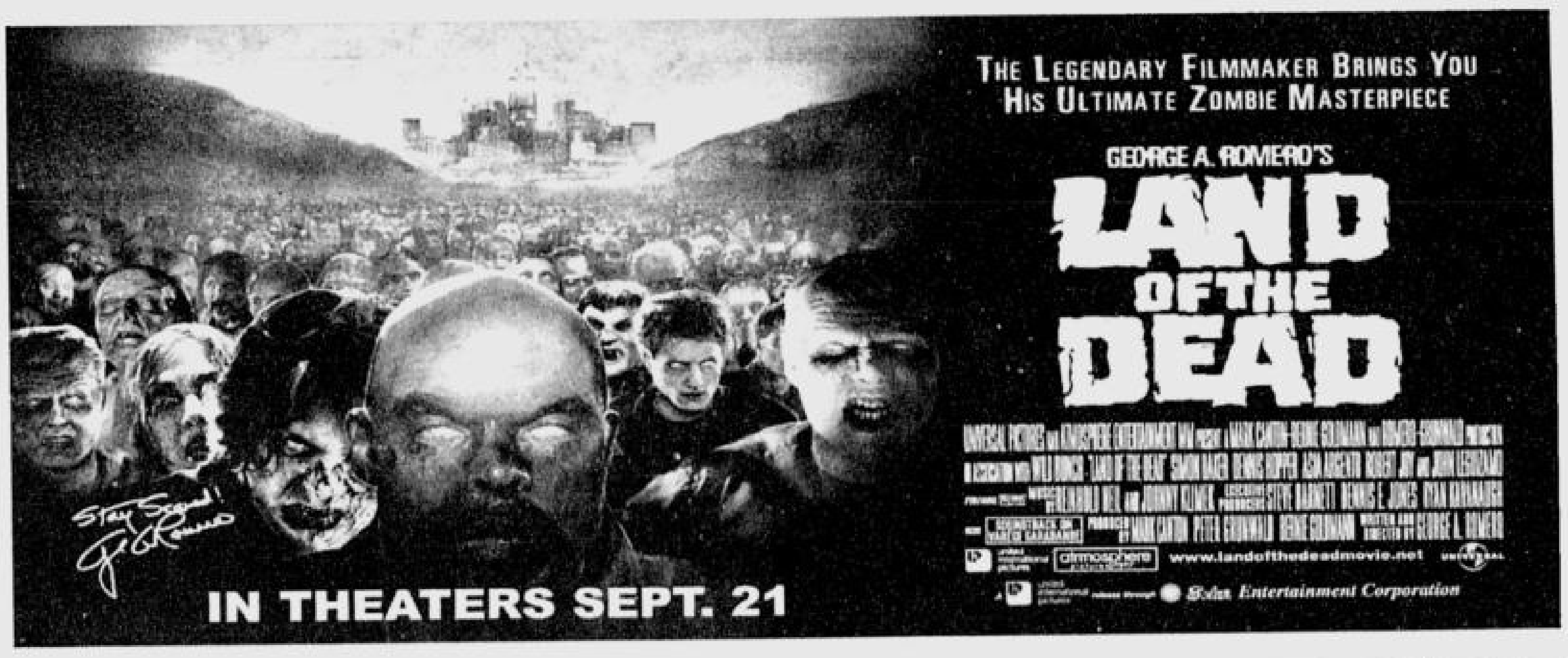
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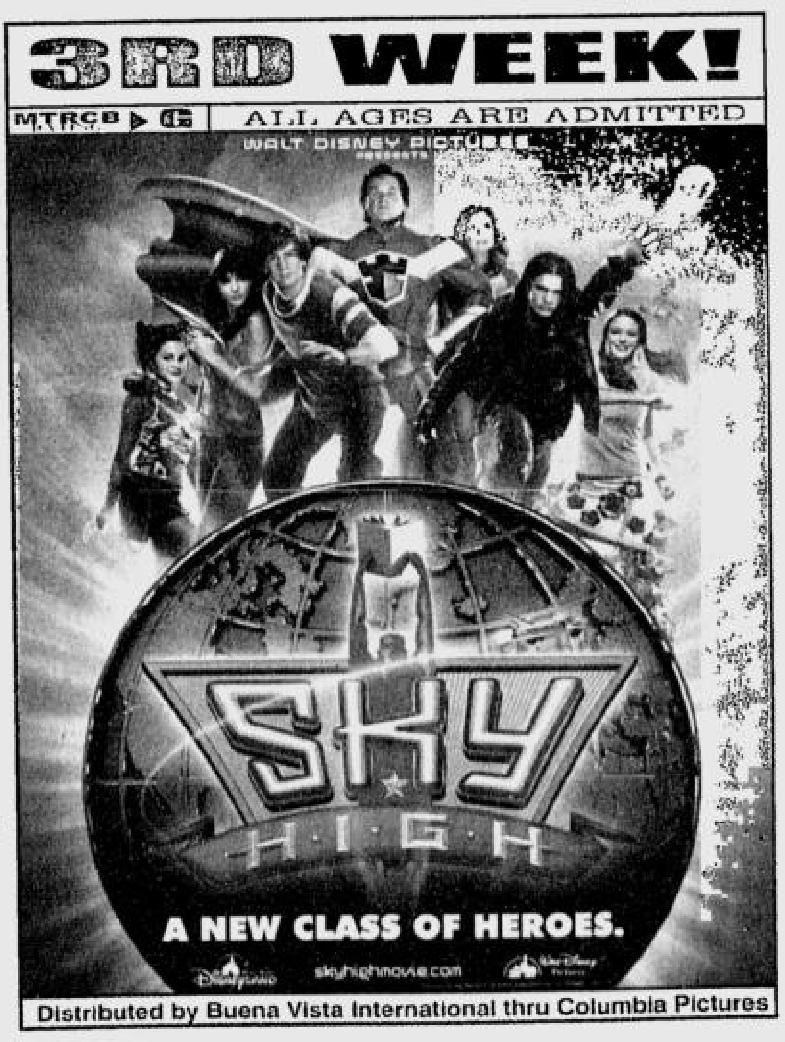
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1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM • THX
2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

2 CINDERELLA MAN
1:20 4:20 7:00 9:50

3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 THE CROW 4
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 LOVESTRUCK
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE CAVE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

9 MUST LOVE DOGS

10 WILD SIDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LOVESTRUCK 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 RED EYE

3 CINDERELLA MAN
12:00 2:50 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 THE CROW 4
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 THE CAVE

6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9.50

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00

2 THE CAVE
1:35 4:00 6:25 8:50

3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 CINDERELLA MAN
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

5 SKY HIGH
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 RED EYE
12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:00

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

8 LOVESTRUCK
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

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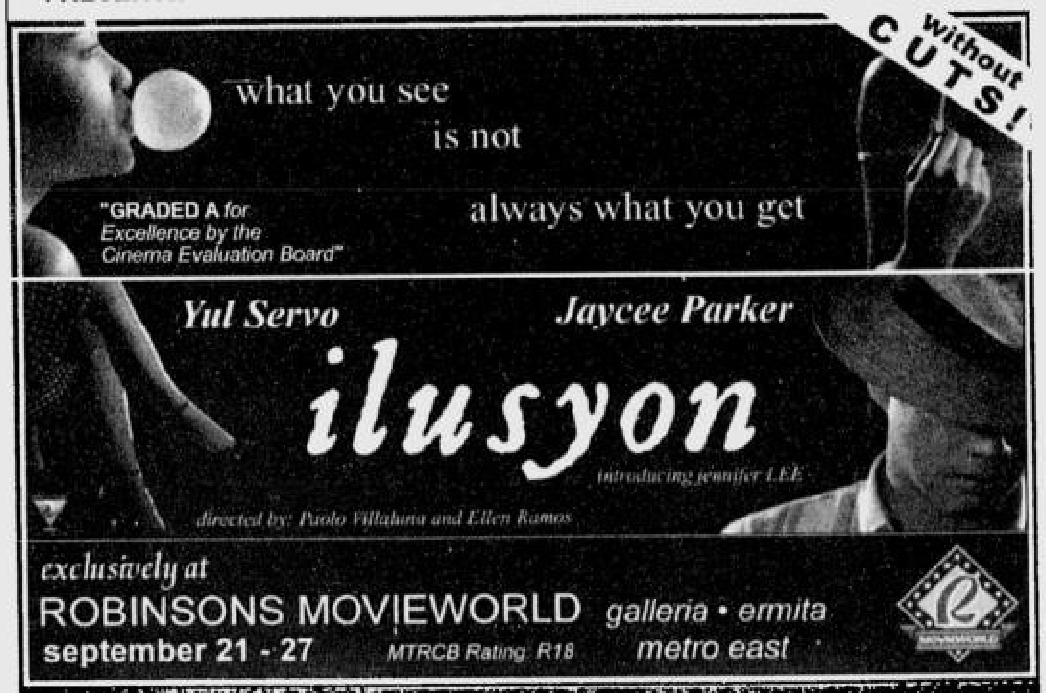
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER



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	4 LORDS OF DOGTOWN	5 SKY HIGH	6 LOVESTRUCK	7 RED EYE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINDERELLA MAN 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20	2 LOVESTRUCK 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM 1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX CINDERELLA MAN 12.50, 3.30, 6.10, 8.50, 11.30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 LONG WEEKEND 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER 2 20, 4 35, 6 50, 9 05, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RED EYE 1:30, 3:30, 5.30, 7.30, 9 30, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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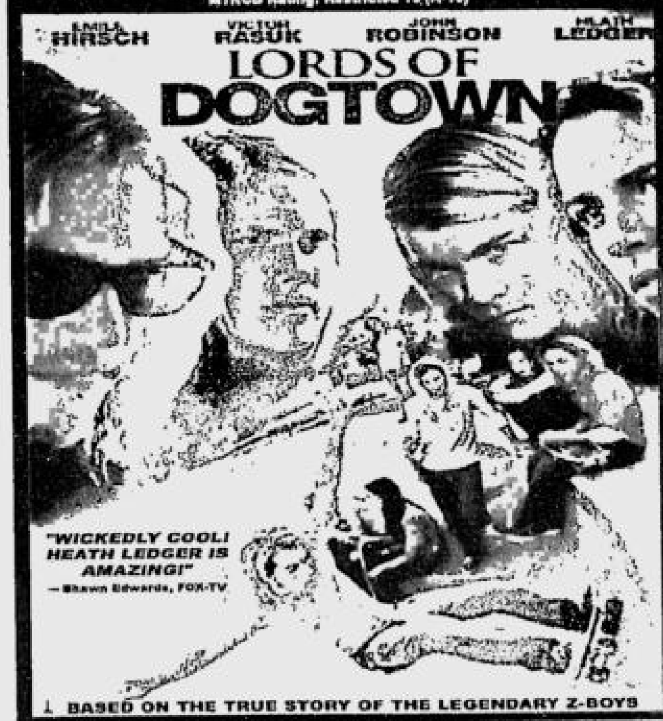

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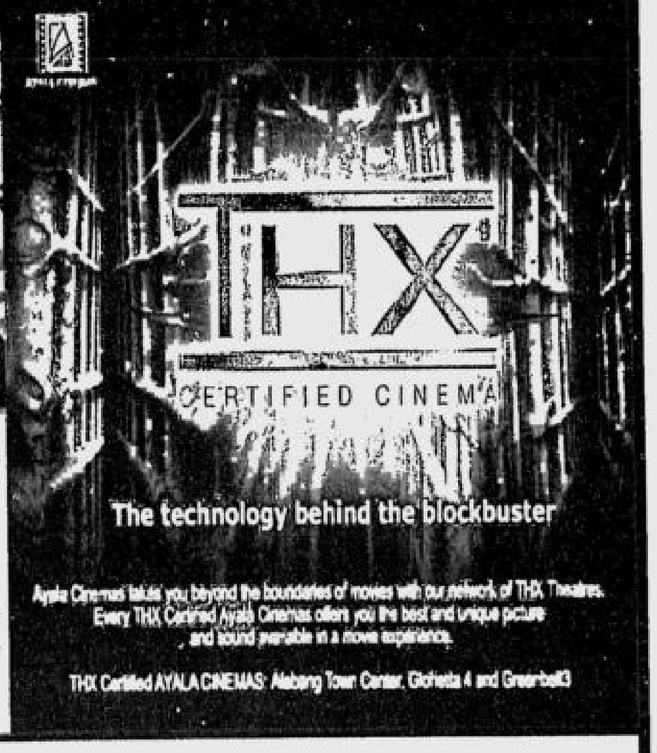

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Speedo-NAGT triathlon fires off tomorrow in CdO

SOME 100 TRIATHLETES FROM northern Mindanao converge in Cagayan de Oro tomorrow for the sixth and penultimate leg of the 2005 Speedo-National Age Group Triathlon (NAGT) series of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP).

Organized by the Cagayan de Oro Triathlon Association, the event has lured entries from Davao City, Bukidnon, Mati, Cebu City and Sta. Rosa, Laguna, led by women's series leader Kim Mangrobang, winner of the last three legs in Caliraya, Laguna; Pangasinan and Clark Field, Pampanga, according to TRAP head Tom Carrasco Jr.

In the men's side, series leader Gerrie Calinawan from Cebu, who is already assured of the overall championship for topping the first four legs, will also compete in the race—750-meter swim, 20K bike leg and 5K run—also sponsored by PowerBar, David's Salon and Spa, Asian Centre for Insulation, Smart Addict Mobile Prepaid and Stronghold Insurance.

The last NAGT leg will be held at Ayala Alabang on Oct. 23. For inquiries, call 0917-7065361 or 0918-9125565.

WORLD DUATHLON

Pia leads crack RP team

NATIONAL CHAMPION RYAN "BAD BOY" Mendoza and Sen. Pia Cayetano lead a four-member RP team leaving today for Newcastle, Australia, to compete in the World Duathlon Championship slated Sept. 24-25.

Target of the squad that also includes veteran duathlon campaigners Jefferson Valdez and George Vilog, with Melvin Faustino as team manager, are top 10 finishes in the men's elite division.

Cayetano, a regular campaigner in local races, is entered in the age-group competitions along with Vilog.

CAYETANO

"It's the most intense training I have ever done," said Cayetano, who has been training under Australian coach Rob Pickard like Mendoza and the rest of the team. "It's a good learning experience for all of us."

Mendoza, who finished third in the Asian Duathlon Championship in Thailand and in the tough Powerman endurance race in Malaysia earlier this year, said Filipinos are capable of barging into the top 10.

"We're first-timers here, but we can make it to the Top 10," said Mendoza.

The team's campaign is supported by the Department of Tourism, Pagcor, Smart Communication, Five9 Philippines, Maxi group of Companies, Clark Development Corp., Mimosa Montevista Villas, Clarkfield, Mizuno as official running shoes, Aseastar Sports, Accel Ridy Project, Promax energy bar, Endurox and Accelerade, Enervon, Transition 1, and Rising Sun Tri apparels.

The Filipinos will be up against the likes of Olympic triathlon silver medalist Greg Bennet and 2004 WDC runner-up Tim Don.

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MILO MARATHON

Regionals wind up in Santiago Sunday

THE SIX REMAINING REGIONAL slots for the 29th National Milo Marathon will be at stake on Sunday when the final elimination race of the country's biggest and longest-running event kicks off in Santiago City in Isabela for the first time.

More than 4,800 runners are expected to join the 21K race as well as the 5K fun run and the Kiddies 3K.

The top three male and female finishers in the 21K run on Sunday qualify to the 42K national finals slated Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

The winners of the men's and women's 21K races will each pocket P10,000 plus an elegant glass trophy and a Smart mobile phone.

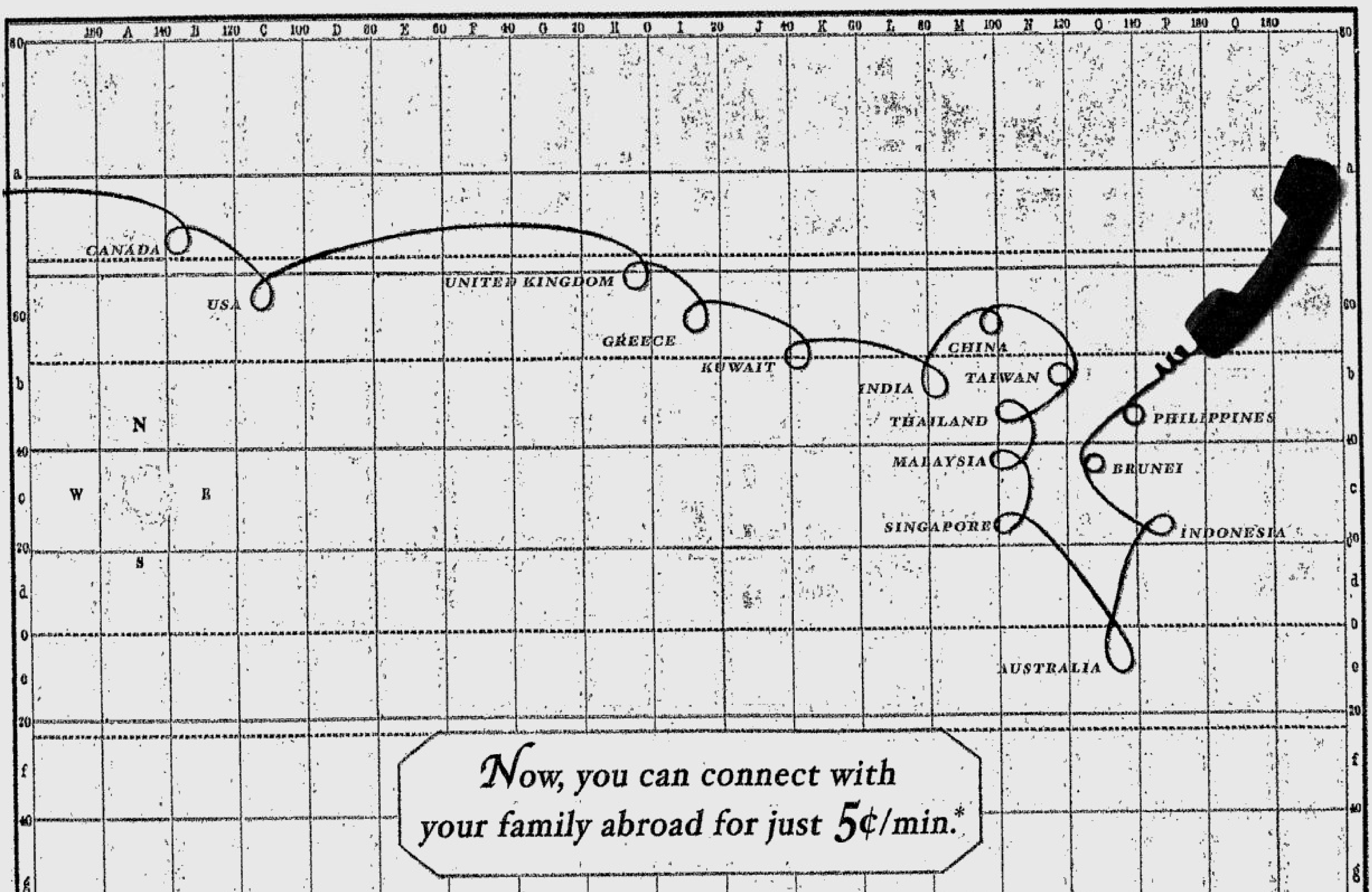
The 5K champions will also win P2,500 while the 3K age-group winners will get P1,500 each.

Mayor Amelita S. Navarro has been invited to fire the starting gun at exactly 6 a.m.

Local race organizer Tess Bernardino is advising all runners to be at the starting area in front of the Santiago City Hall at least 30 minutes before flag-off.

The school with the most number of runners in the 5K and 3K runs will also get P10,000 worth of sports equipment. An inter-school cheerdance and running competition is staking P24,000 for the winners.

The regional races and the National Finals are being held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and PowerBar. It is also supported by Mayor Lito Atienza's Manila Sports Council headed by his son, Ali.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SATURDAY *Special*

NOW SHOWING

Crowe, Howard triumph anew

CROWE AND ZELLWEGER. Play James and May Braddock in moving biopic.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Cinderella Man"

D: Ron Howard
S: Russell Crowe, Renée Zellweger, Paul Giamatti

YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT TO RON Howard—the guy makes movies that are diverse and consistently top-notch! In his latest cinematic triumph, he dramatizes a man's uphill struggle to keep his family together during the Great Depression, and redefines cinema's "fairy tale" conventions by bringing to the big screen the true-to-life story of an unlikely "Cinderella"-type protagonist: 1935 heavyweight boxing champion, James J. Braddock.

In this moving triumph-of-the-human-spirit biopic, Howard recounts how a down-on-his-luck former prizefighter reemerges to inspire a whole country torn by social unrest and a bad economy. Everything about Jimmy's world seems to fall apart—but, his sagging spirit is kept alive by his beautiful, supportive wife, May (Renée Zellweger), and their doe-eyed kids, who look up to him as their hero.

Indeed, when everything in our world looks grim and bleak, the family will always be there to keep us sane and grateful for life's small blessings.

Crowe may be one of Hollywood's biggest brats, but he is also arguably its most talented actor. He electrifies the screen even when he's required to don white toga and sandals ("Gladiator"), portray a sanity-impaired genius ("A Beautiful Mind"), inhabit the mind of a remorseless criminal ("Romper Stomper"), or spar in the ring with hungry-for-blood boxing opponents. Zellweger and Paul Giamatti (as Braddock's manager) lend able support.

Ultimately, Howard's film, one of the year's best, inspires by giving those who have had runs of bad luck reason to cheer. In Braddock's life, a real sense of hope springs from the pugilist's steely resolve to rise from the rot. And Howard deftly demonstrates that, sometimes, fairy tales do come true. Bring a thick hanky—*no*, a towel!

CROWE/ A2-4

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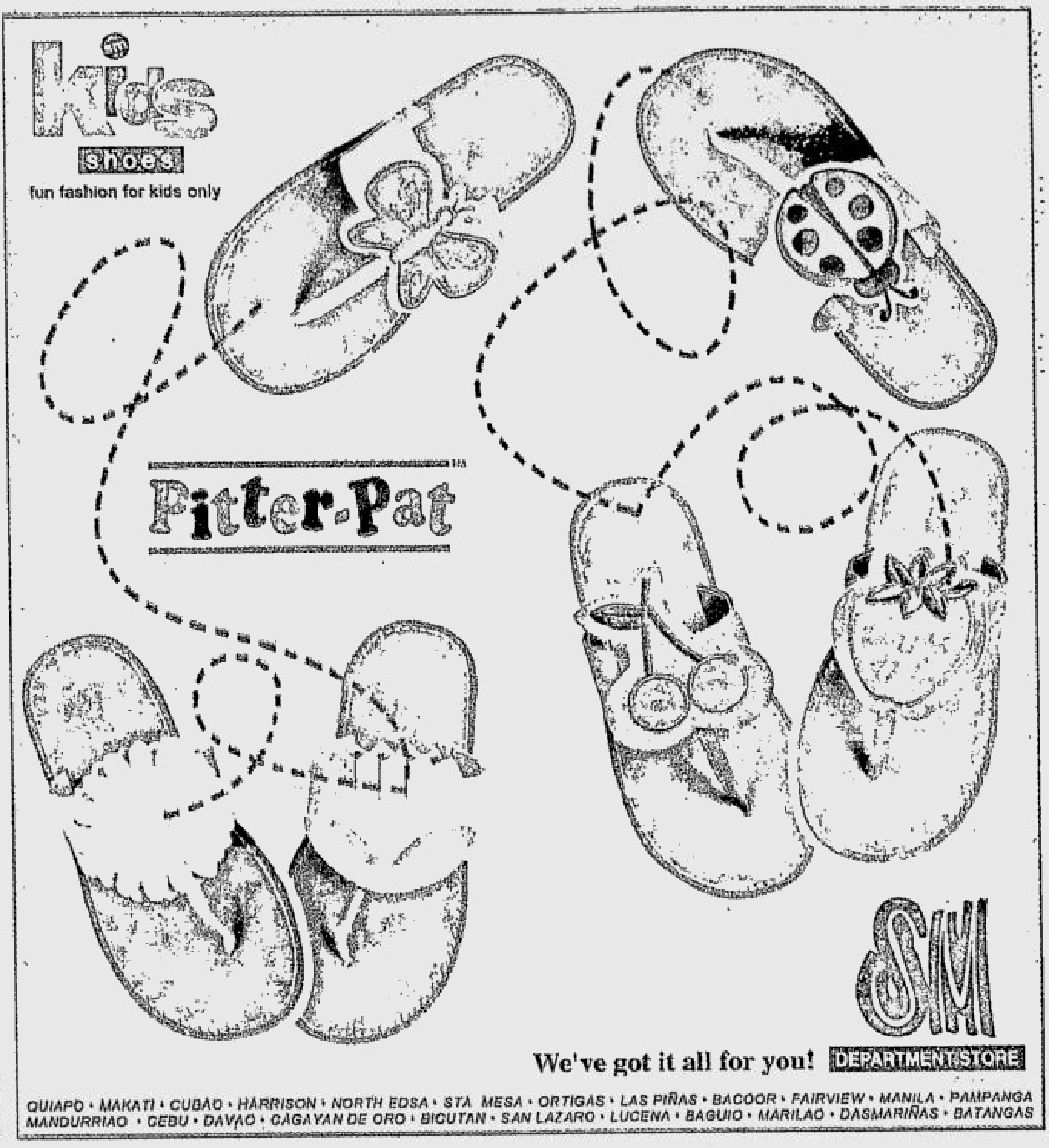
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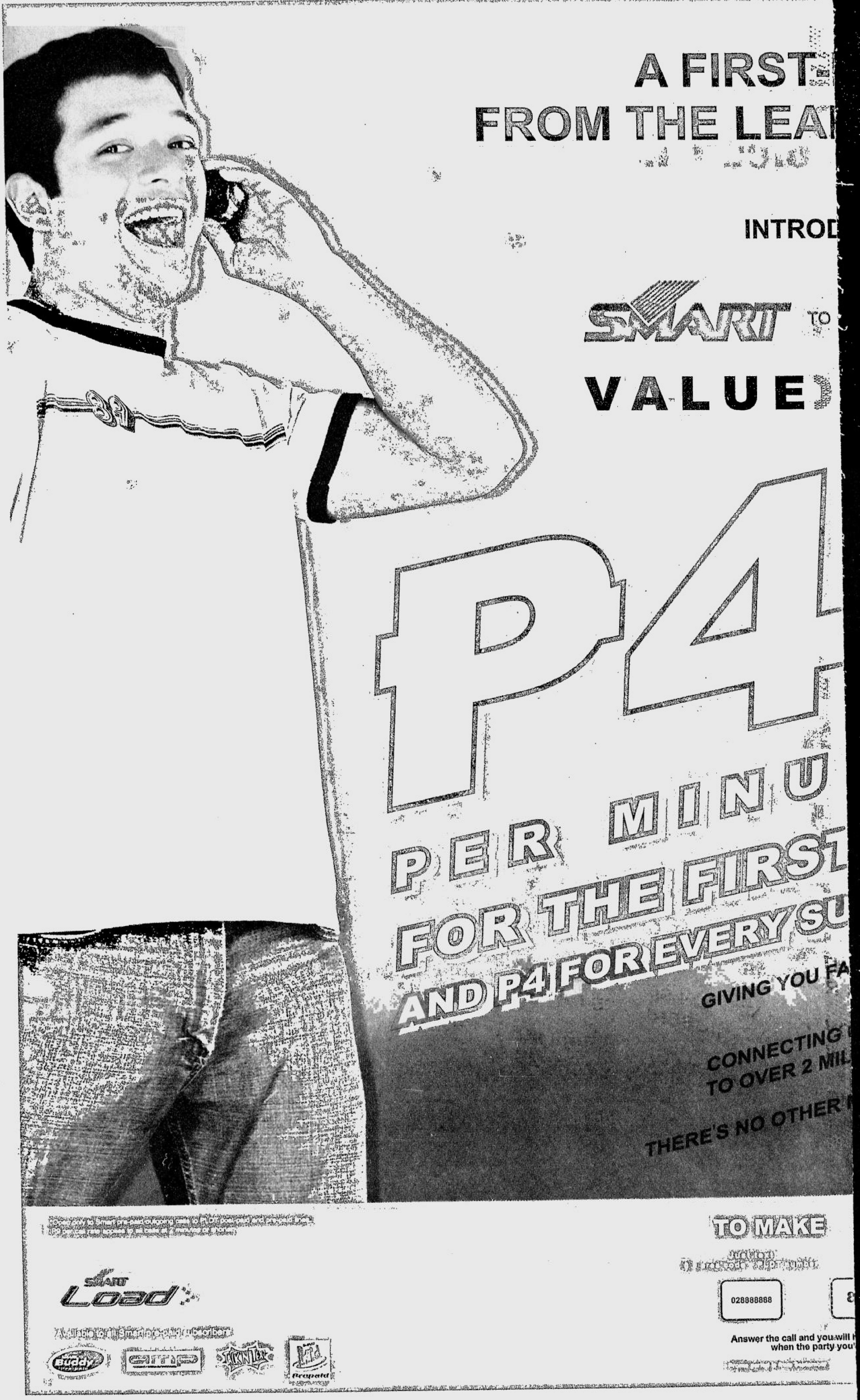

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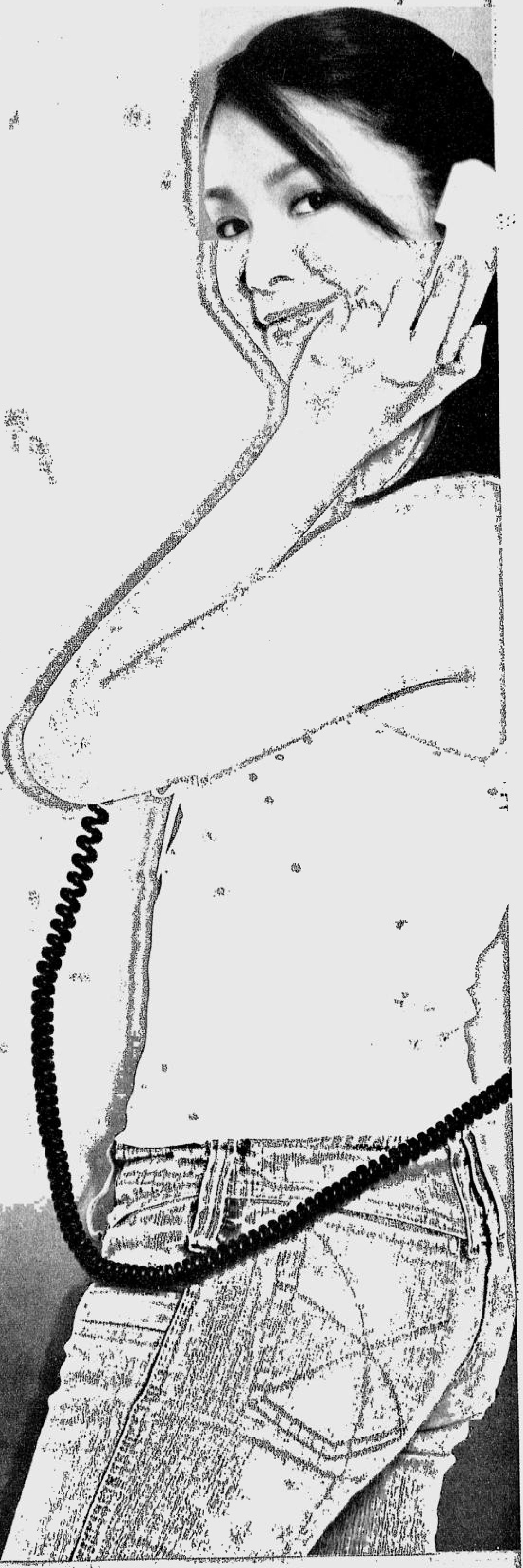

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Mikee lends credibility to TV campaign

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN WE FIRST HEARD THAT THE SOUTHeast Asia Foundation for Children and Television had tapped Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski to be its official spokesperson, we thought the appointment was most apt, even inspired.

Perfect choice

As a champion equestrienne, actress, TV host, celebrity, role model and young mother, Mikee possesses a rare combination of attributes that makes her the perfect choice as the face and voice of the foundation's laudable campaign for child-friendly, responsible and balanced TV programming.

Our very positive first impression was decisively affirmed when we recently joined Mikee and other SEAFCTV stalwarts in an Anak TV Seal sortie to the Visayas. Mikee took time from her busy schedule to speak to an audience of more than 200 community leaders in Cebu City, to boost their resolve to improve the quality and productive use of television.

Experience

Mikee's experience as a communicator served her well in connecting with her eager audience. In addition, her natural, sincere and no-frills way of talking made the points she raised eminently clear and accessible to her listeners.

Best of all, Mikee came through as a young mother who was concerned about the potentially negative effects of irresponsible TV programming on her children.

She quickly established that she had a personal stake in the success of the foundation's campaign, so she was speaking, not from an abstract do-gooder stance, but from experience.

Thus, she was able to share details and specifics about how she controlled the influence of television in her own home, to make sure that her young sons would be spared its more negative effects.

And, having read extensively on the subject, she was able to expand on her personal experience, to share a more comprehensive view of how viewers, especially parents, can establish a more child-friendly TV environment in their homes.

Thus properly primed and motivated, the people at the media conference in Cebu went on to screen a number of TV programs, and evaluate their suitability for viewing by children, which the foundation would later recognize by way of Anak TV Seals for the best of those programs.

Involvement

We hope that Mikee can join the SEAFCTV's officials in their other sorties to different parts of the country. The foundation's Anak TV Seal campaign can benefit enormously from her personal involvement. We trust, too, that other respected celebrities will also lend their popularity and credibility to the foundation's campaign to improve the local TV landscape, for all our children's sake.

COJUANGCO-JAWORSKI. Concerned about potentially negative effects of irresponsible programming on television.

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Crowe, Zellweger...

From page A2-1

"Lovestruck"

D: Louie Ignacio
S: Jolina Magdangal, Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras

This week's *other* "fairy tale"—about childhood buddies, Caloy (Mark Herras) and Denise (Jennylyn Mercado), who grow up realizing that they've fallen for each other—plays out its narrative like a glossy music video: Fog machines and bubbles are as conspicuous as Jolina Magdangal to lend a dreamy, mystical mood to scenes, romantic or otherwise. Highstrung and impressionable Denise pines for Jason (Mike Tan) before she realizes the error of her ways—her Prince Charming is just around the corner, and she's been overlooking her undeniable chemistry with him until he . . . well, get the drift?

Die-hard fans may initially enjoy the constant fighting and flirting of Herras and Mercado, along with the truly incredible gender-bending side story that features Rainier Castillo and Yasmien Kurdi. But, after seeing these familiar faces fight and make up *ad nauseum*, the novelty quickly wears off.

Not even the well-sung musical numbers of the omnipresent Jolina, who trots out her antics in various politically-incorrect incarnations (cross-eyed, pockmarked, dark-skinned, kinky-haired characters with a prominent chin and silly regional accents have long ceased to be funny), could help elevate the film from its trite and predictable storyline and play-for-*kilig* style. But, it's great to see a youthful Gina Alajar and the returning Lorna Tolentino, despite the latter's schmaltzy participation, back on the big screen.

"Wild Side"

D: Sebastien Lifshitz
S: Stephanie Michelini, Edouard Nikitine

The world as seen through the eyes of "Wild Side's" transgender protagonist, male-to-female transsexual prostitute, Stephanie *aka* Pierre (Stephanie Michelini) may be a desolate one, but the movie's message of poetic hope and gender-bending love among scarred souls permeates its 93-minute running time.

In Lifshitz' surreal Berlin filmfest-winning French feature, Stephanie reluctantly goes back to her childhood home after 17 years, when she is summoned to tend to a sick mother.

On her trip, she brings along her two lovers: illegal Russian immigrant Mikhail (Edouard Nikitine) and Algerian rent boy Jamel (Yasmine Belmadi). But, she has to come to grips with her bittersweet past and reevaluate the unconventional lifestyle she leads.

The film's subject matter may put off conservative viewers, but Lifshitz' thoughtful film (currently being screened at Robinsons Galleria) enchants with its postcard-perfect cinematography (the beautiful French countryside, naked bodies, etc.), and its message of hope and love among the ruins. Film buffs, don't miss it!

"A Sound of Thunder"

D: Peter Hyams
S: Edward Burns, Ben Kingsley, Catherine McCormack

It's 2055, Chicago. Avaricious entrepreneur Charles Hatton (Ben Kingsley) develops a time machine that allows bored, wealthy men to go back 65 million years into the past for an expensive, dinosaur-hunting safari. But, there are rules to follow: Don't change anything from the past; don't leave anything behind, and don't bring anything back to the future—or risk altering the course of history. And it is Dr. Travis Ryer's (Edward Burns) job to make sure the time continuum remains unchanged.

After one fateful trip, however, a tropical heat wave suddenly replaces the usually chilly November weather. Then, creatures that go bump in the night—and day—start to surface! To restore order, Travis has to go back in time . . . before the future is entirely annihilated by the sins of the past.

Peter Hyams adapts Ray Bradbury's cautionary short story to the big screen. A "Jurassic Park" rip-off, the film's premise is intriguing, but it is marred by special effects that look dated, and an uninspired script that lacks the urgency and tension needed to keep the sci-fi tale involving. The only thing that keeps the movie afloat is Burns' strong presence.

SATURDAY Special

The rehabilitation of Paris Hilton

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME WEEKS AGO, SOME CELEBRITIES only half-jokingly dissed Paris Hilton and described her as a social menace due to the wrong values that her ditzy, spoiled-brat antics vivified, particularly for the impressionable youth. Why are even show biz luminaries so down on Paris? How much of a "social menace" is she, really?

A big part of the viewing public's negative view of Paris Hilton, the star and the person, can be attributed to the snitty imp called Jealousy. She was born with the proverbial silver spoon in her pouty mouth, and attained stardom more easily than most. Can you blame the less well-connected for envying her favored status, and thinking ill of her, as a result?

Image

Paris' "signature" TV show, "The Simple Life," has further soured up her image. Its first edition had her and similarly bratty sidekick, Nicole Ritchie, living with a series of hapless families in small towns, and shocking the heck out of them with their rich-bitch antics.

Currently, the show has Paris and Nicole apprenticing at a series of yukky jobs like sausage-making, and predictably making a mess of everything. That can only add to viewers' disdain and even disgust for the two vapid viragos' assaults on the values and lifestyles that Middle America holds dear.

Is Paris really as horrid as her show portrays her? Not hardly. If anything, the star is a willing victim of her show's success! Being so snitty and disagreeable *all* the time without help from an entire creative and production team would be too exhausting for a young star to manage . . .

Good thespic marks

Fact is, when she acts in her occasional film starrers, Paris gets pretty good thespic marks from reviewers. This suggests that, while her public image depicts her as a lazy and malevolent rich bitch, the actress is in fact a reliable and even hardworking professional.

THE REHABILITATION A3-2

HILTON. Born with the proverbial silver spoon in her pouty mouth, she attained stardom more easily than most.

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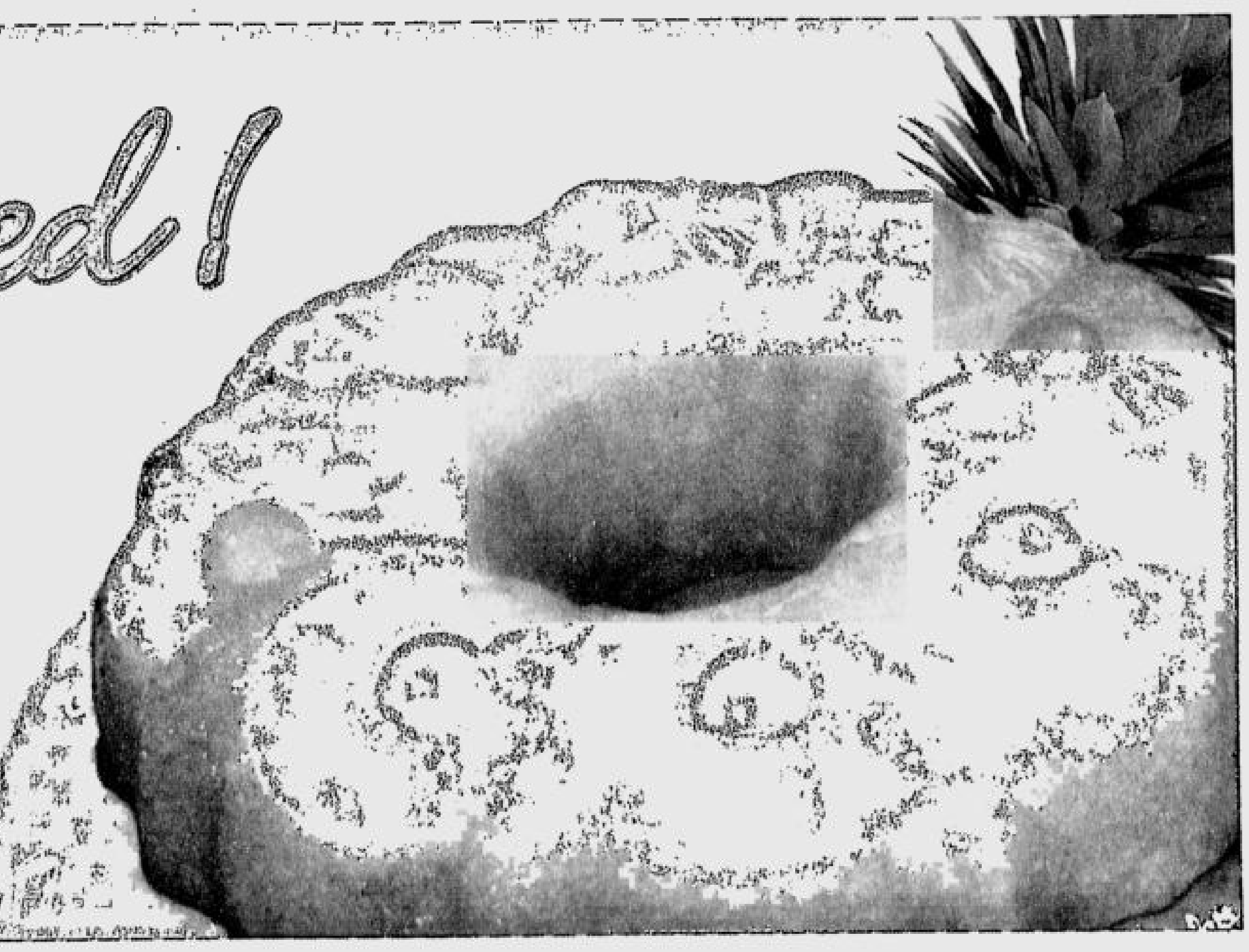

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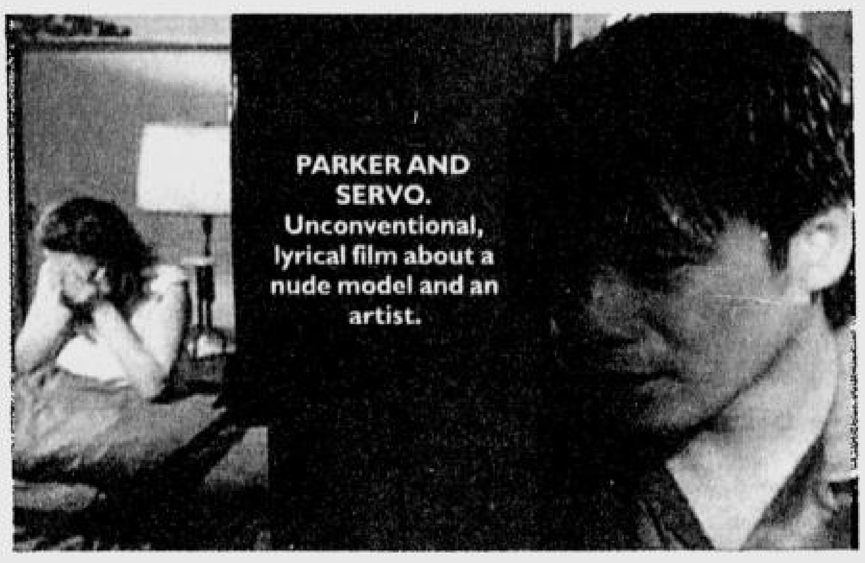
'Ilusyon' gets top grade from CEB

By Rica Arevalo


PARKER AND SERVO. Unconventional, lyrical film about a nude model and an artist.

WHEN ELLEN RAMOS AND PAOLO Villaluna let me read the script of their debut feature, "Ilusyon," my first question was, "How will this movie be different from the current sex flicks shown in the mainstream?" Paolo said that their film would not be a cheap, typically exploitative picture.

True enough, "Ilusyon" is the first digital feature to get a grade of "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB).

Set in the late 1950s, the film tells the story of Miguel (Yul Servo), who visits his father, Pablo, a modernist painter in Manila. He meets Stella (Jaycee Parker), a nude model. Miguel is mesmerized by her beauty and pretends that he is Pablo.

Collaborators

Ellen and Paolo are constant collaborators in graphic design, videos and animation. (They made the "death hallucination" animation of Eddie Garcia in 'ICU Bed #7'). Paolo confesses, "Although we have personality differences, we find that our creative sensibilities are basically the same.

"On the set, Ellen focuses on the design while I work with the actors. We then collaborate on the shots and the mood of each scene."

Ellen is renowned for her oil paint-on-glass animation, "Doon Sa Kabila Ng Bulkan," for which she received several awards from both local and international film festivals, whereas Paolo is known for his documentary, "Palugid," a brave confessional that won the Urian for best short film in 2001.

According to Paolo, while shooting "Ilusyon," the atmosphere on the set was generally fun. "That's one thing we learned from Jon Red while watching him direct 'Boso'—the director carries the general mood on the set and everyone else will pick up on that. Establishing an atmosphere where everyone wants to be creative and have fun is essential."

Ready for anything

Line producers Jon and Carol Red helped put up the "indie" team in Digital Viva's second outing. "The good thing when you come from the indie set-up is that you're ready for anything, and are willing to make adjustments.

"*Sa* indie *kasi*, you're forced to do something out of scratch so to have anything more than nothing is really a blessing," says Paolo.

Good sign

How did they react to their CEB rating? "We were honestly shocked, because we thought only films with big budgets and commercially polished treatments could get a grade of 'A.' It's a good sign, especially for our community, because it says that small films *can* be noticed."

"Ilusyon" will compete in the Cinemanila filmfest this month.

The rehabilitation of Paris Hilton

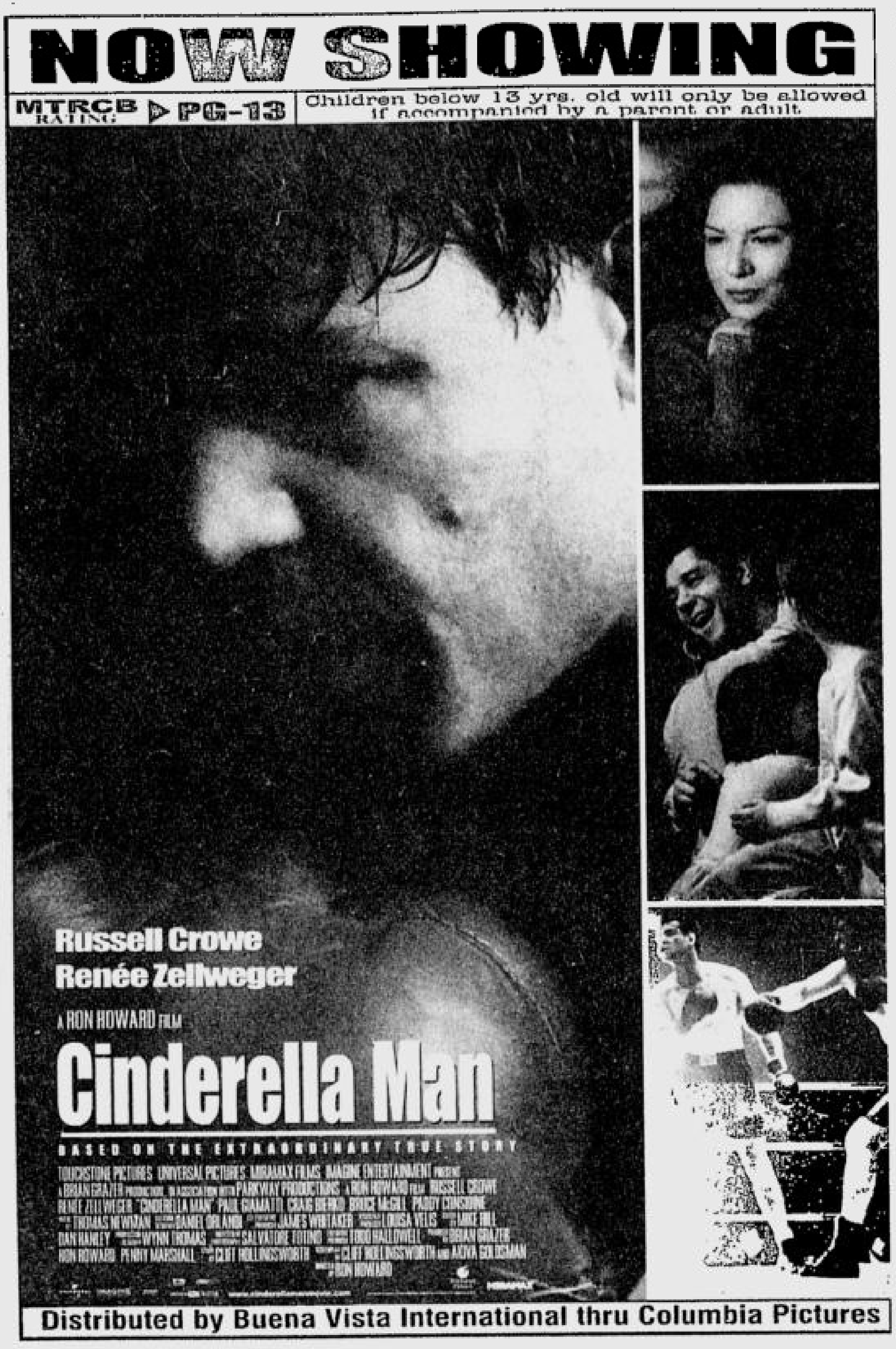
From page A3-1

This view was reinforced for us recently when Paris appeared as the main guest star on the popular and long-running comedy show, "Saturday Night Live." "SNL" is one of the best shows on TV, with a regular cast of some of the finest comedians in the business, so guesting on it is both an honor and a challenge.

To her credit, Paris gave her comic scenes in the show everything she had, and came off a real winner. Now, you don't do *that* by just pouting your way through your scenes, so Paris' good showing proved that she was both gifted *and* hardworking as a performer. She *may* be a rich bitch, but she's also much more than that!

What's up next for Paris Hilton? She's engaged to be married to a shipping magnate's son *also* named Paris—how about *that*?!—and she says that her ditzy, vapid socialite and bling-bling days are officially over.

Now, Ms. Hilton, the rehabilitation of your image is great, but you don't have to go *that* far!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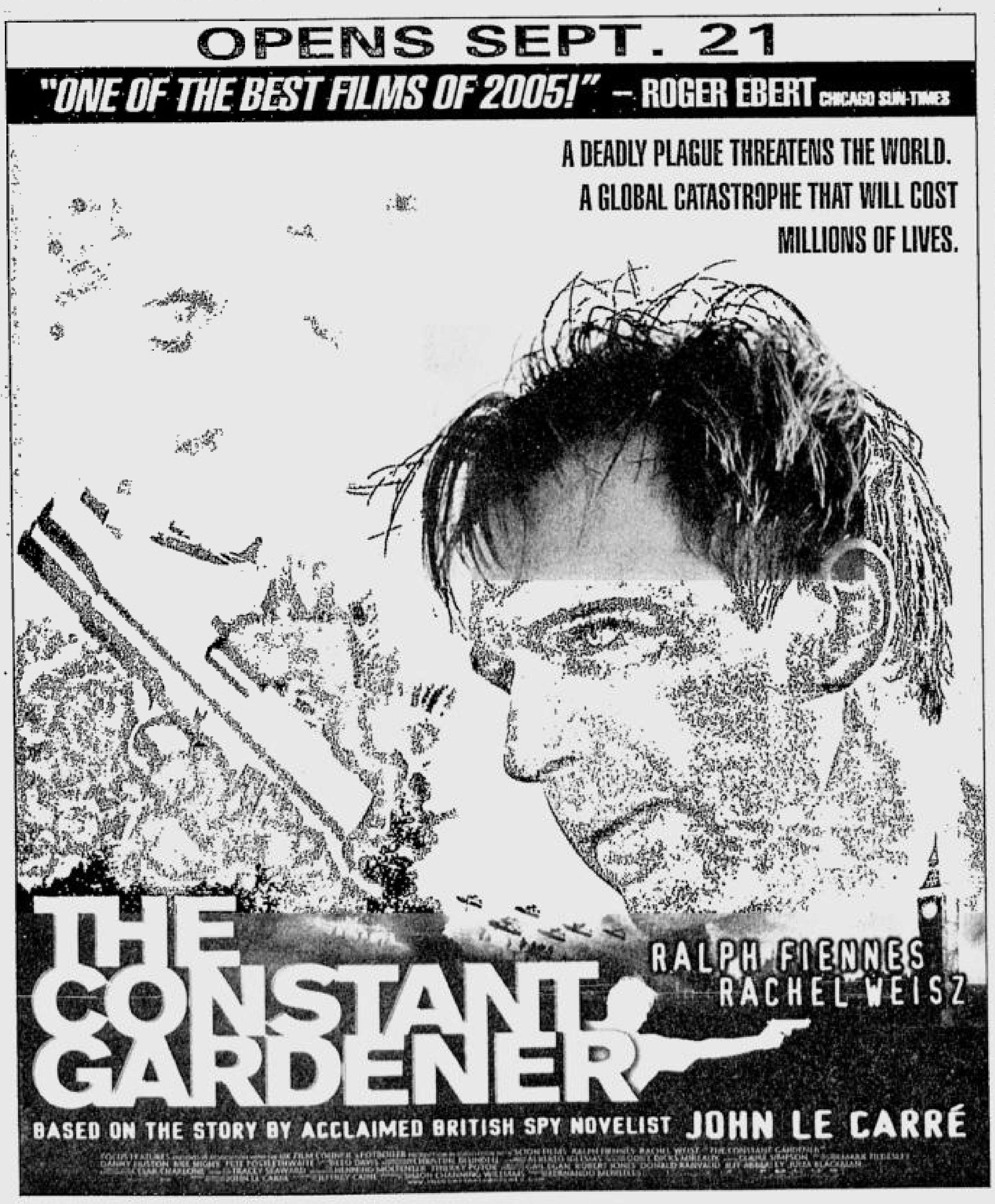
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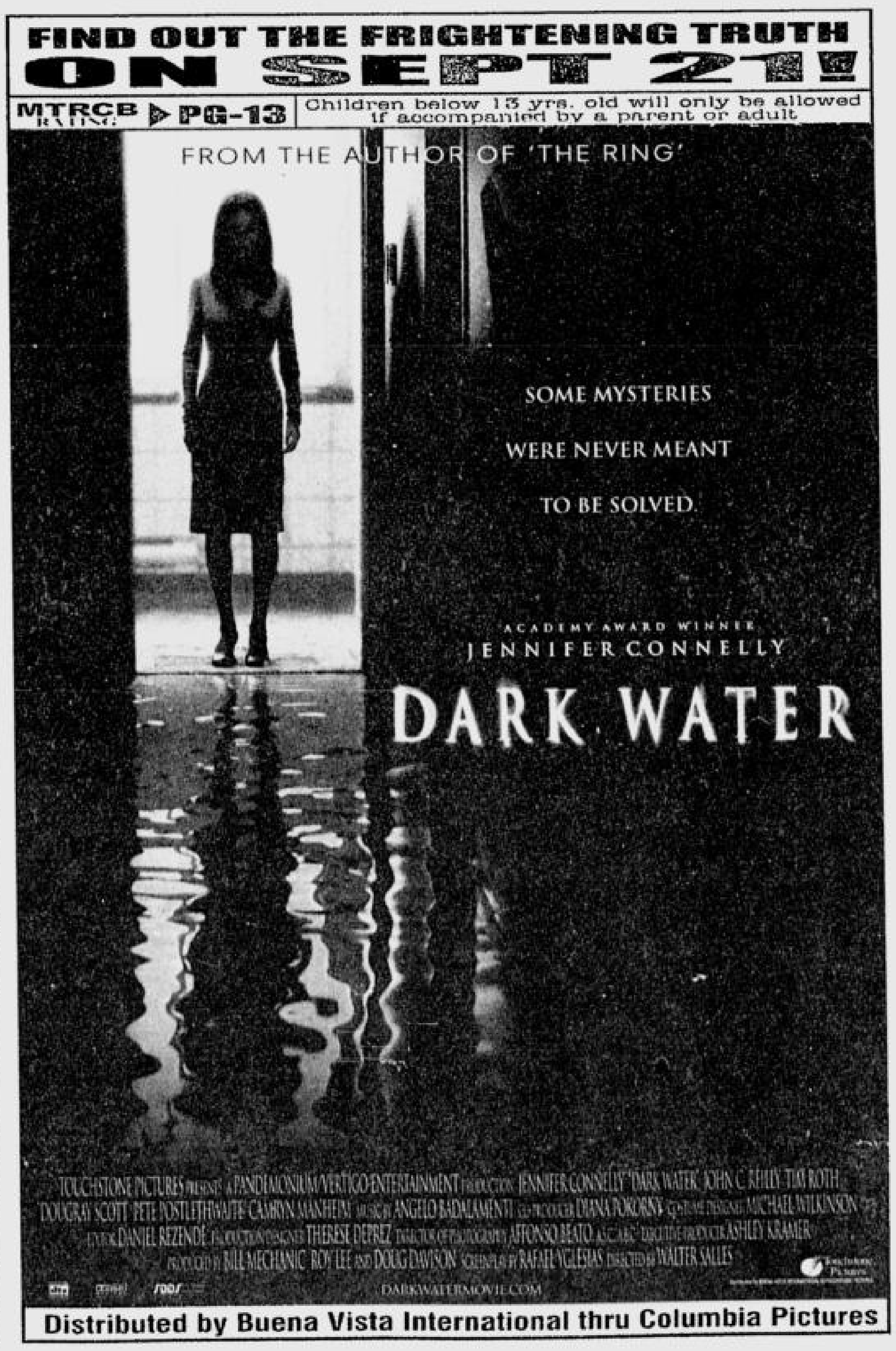
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My favorite films

By Behn Cervantes

I ENJOY WATCHING MOVIES THAT EITHER entertain, elate, educate or agitate me. These movies come to mind:

"Casablanca" is the first film I recall watching. I did so under a table in Iloilo a few weeks after Liberation. An American minesweeper brought the reels of the Academy Award-winning film to Lolita dela Rama Lopez' large home, where some of the city's elite were invited for the screening. For some reason, I smuggled my way in and found my place under her long dining table.

There I was, enchanted for the first time by Ingrid Bergman requesting Sam to again play "As Time Go By." The intricate weaving of romance, political intrigue and personal conflicts left a deep impression.

Visually exciting

"Gone With The Wind" is another favorite. Not only was it visually exciting, it was aurally spellbinding, too. I have seen it countless times, but everytime I do, it amazes me all over again! I am consistently enthralled by its grandeur and scope, as well as the fine performances of Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Olivia de Havilland, Leslie Howard, Hattie McDaniel and Butterfly McQueen.

In 1971, I was so taken by Pontecorvo's documentary-style "Battle of Algiers" that I sat through four screenings of the film! I yearn to own a DVD of this great film.

I was thrilled to meet Pontecorvo at the 1978 Manila International Film Festival, where he was invited as a judge. Little did the diminutive Italian genius realize that his films, "Burn" and "Battle of Algiers," were banned by the local censors! (Naturally, I told him about it.) I still have the address that he quickly wrote on a piece of paper after our secret *tete-a-tete*.

A few years later, I went to see "The Little Prince." For some reason, I was overwhelmed by the poignancy, the music, and the performance of Richard Kiley, who had left a permanent imprint on me after I saw him in "Man from La Mancha." I was equally impressed with Bob Fosse as the snake *and* the cute tyke who portrayed the Prince. I walked around for an hour after watching the movie, to take it all in.

Profound effect

Recently, I bought the DVD of the film and realized that, cinematically and technically, "West Side Story," "Moulin Rouge" and "ET" were more impressive. But, I will always treasure "The Little Prince's" profound effect on me.

I was equally affected by the magic and poignancy of "La Strada." I can't think about the film without remembering Lino Brocka, Adul de Leon and Joonee Gamboa, because we saw the film together. Our tight gang fell under the spell of Giulietta Masina and became die-hard fans of Federico Fellini. Not long after, I was duly enchanted by "La Dolce Vita" and "Zorba, The Greek."

However, the film that *truly* captivated me was the hauntingly beautiful "Cinema Paradiso," which was about humanity, society and its affinity to the world of cinema. Everytime I watch the movie on DVD, I rejoice, smile and weep.

BERGMAN. Her 1942 starrer, "Casablanca," intricately wove romance, political intrigue and personal conflicts.

LOPEZ. Advocate of children's and environmental causes.

Award for a distinguished woman

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

REGINA PAZ LOPEZ is the managing director of the ABS-CBN Foundation, a member of the Lopez Group Foundation, the goal of which is to coordinate and synergize its seven foundations and member holding companies for Corporate Responsibility Initiatives. Gina programmed Bantay Bata 163 (Child Watch), the first media-based hotline and rescue operations.

She also put up Bantay Kaliksan (Environment Watch), and produces educational television shows on Science, Math, Values, History and English.

Achievements

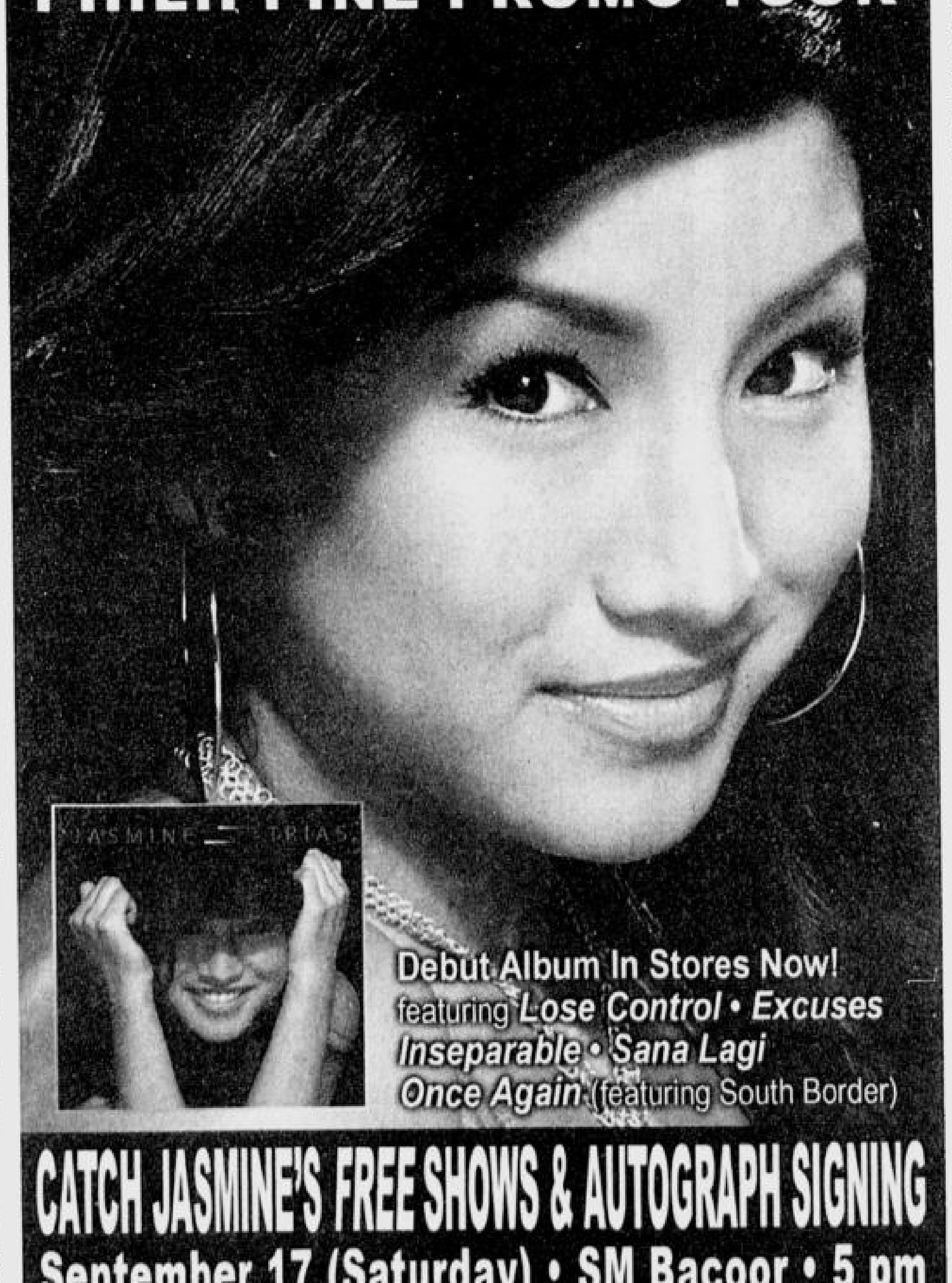
In recognition of these achievements, Nelia Cruz Sarcol, founder of Center for International Education (CIE-Cebu), recommended Gina Lopez for the 36th annual Northwood University Distinguished Women's Awards.

This November, Gina will be honored in a ceremony in Phoenix, Arizona. She will be meeting with other present and past honorees, like Congresswoman Mary Bono of Palm Springs, CA, comedy legend Ruth Buzzi, anchors Sue Herrera and Mary Hart, and philanthropist Kit Moncrief.

Congratulations!

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com

Salamat DOK
A Special Episode on
Chronic Hepatitis B...
...with expert guest
Jose D. Sollano, Jr., M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine and
Chief, Section of Gastroenterology,
University of Santo Tomas
President, Asia Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL)
September 18, Sunday 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.
ABS-CBN Kaagapay Mo Sa Mabuting Kalusugan



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Sept. 14-30

HOME, APPLIANCE & TECHNO MALLWIDE SALE
September 14-30
- Avail discounts from participating Home, Appliance & Techno outlets mallwide.

APPLIANCE & TECHNO FAIR
September 14 – 27, 2nd Level Carousel Court
- Exhibit of various appliances and techno gadgets

HOME & FURNITURE FAIR
September 15-30
2nd Level, Main Entrance, 2nd Level, Toll Wing (fronting Healthway), 3rd Level Chef's Avenue & 4th Level C-Square
- Various Home and Interior display set-ups by Interior Design Students of Assumption College & St. Scholastica's College

CRAFTING WORKSHOPS
- Learn various crafting skills for your home decors. Free start – up kits to the early registrants.

Stone Printing
by The Thought Factory
September 17, 3 – 5 pm
3rd Level Treasure Trove (near Ice Monster)

Paper Tole Workshop
by Heavenly Stitchin' Moments
September 18, 2 – 4 pm
2nd Level Carousel Court

Crystal Lamination
by The Thought Factory
September 18, 3 – 5 pm
3rd Level Treasure Trove

How to make a Kiddie Chair
by Black & Decker and Handyman Do it Best Home Center
September 18, 5 – 7 pm
2nd Level Carousel Court

Photos on Tiles
by The Thought Factory
September 24, 3 – 5 pm
3rd Level Treasure Trove

Mud Clay Workshop
by Heavenly Stitchin' Moments
September 25, 2 - 4 pm
2nd Level Carousel Court

Image Lifting on Fabric by The Thought Factory
September 25, 3 – 5 pm
3rd Level Treasure Trove

FAMILY DAY BY WOMAN TODAY
September 24, 1 pm
2nd Level Carousel Court
Enjoy the day as Woman Today brings you wholesome fun for the family. Magic Shows, clowns & games for kids, tips on home decors, no fuss cooking demos, Flower arrangements & raffle for moms and talks on the benefit of new technology and computer games for dads! Admission is FREE!

Visit the Home Bazaar, Antiques Fair & Décor Plus at the 4th Level and the Treasure Trove at the 3rd Level for more Home & Furniture Selections.

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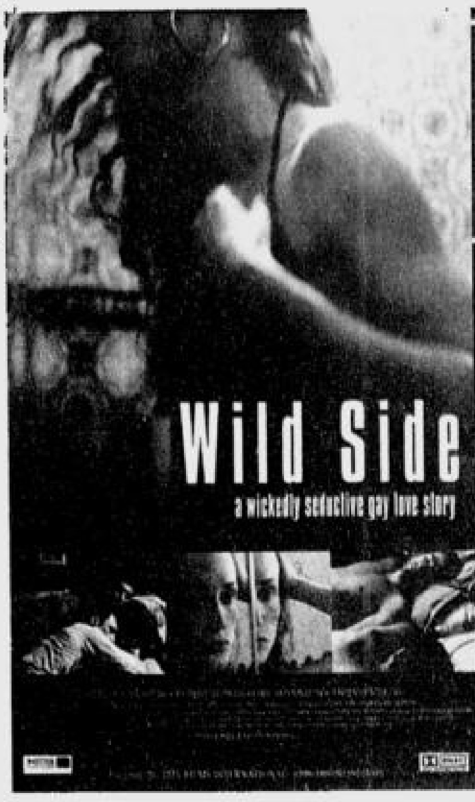
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is now revealed...
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- September 14 - 20
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or visit us:www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Fine ensemble work in 'ICU Bed #7'

By Agnes P. De Guzman

GARCIA. Goes to the set prepared.

AFTER WINNING Balanghai trophies for best direction and best actor (Eddie Garcia), Rica Arevalo's "ICU Bed #7" will have a theatrical run at the Promenade in Greenhills with some other Cinemalaya films from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4.

Angel Aquino shares her experience working with Eddie: "It's a different feeling when you're working with people you look up to."

How did she prepare for her role as Beth? "I tried to remember how I was with my own *tatay.* He was harsh, but I outgrew that—I learned to forget. No matter how you resent your parents, you have to learn how to deal with them, because you are stuck with each other."

For her part, Irma Adlawan was attracted to the project because of its simplicity. "It's quiet, but it has heart."

Good words

She has only good words for Garcia: "He goes to the set prepared. *Kaya,* if you don't know what you're doing, *mapapahiya ka."*

The actors agree that it helped that Arevalo's directing style was light and breezy: Aquino adds, "I liked the working environment—*walang* pressure, *walang* tantrums. People were motivated to do well. It's great to work with people who have fresh ideas!"

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A SOUND OF THUNDER
MASTER VISIONARY RAY BRADBURY CREATES A CHILLING FUTURE.

Eating my way through the Big Apple

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

NEW YORK CITY, New York—The last time I was in the Big Apple was over two decades ago.

It was our Cornell University dorm's reunion that recently took me back there. I took advantage of the visit to sample NYC's many great dining places. (We stayed at fellow foodies Caloy and Charina Mendoza's pad.

First meal

Our first meal was at Gramercy Tavern. We had the tasting menu, which consisted of sea scallops with nettle puree and shoestring potatoes, seared *foie gras* with cherries, cipollini onions, almonds and balsamic vinegar, roasted halibut with braised squash, olive tapenade, tomato vinaigrette, and a rack of lamb with goat cheese ravioli. —Perfect!

For the best pastrami sandwich, Dodi Tan took me to Siegels on 88th and 1st, which prides itself for its overstuffed pastrami slices on toasted rye bread. The meat was thinly sliced, tender, and tasted *so* good!

Sweets

For sweets, my sister-in-law Charina Mendoza brought us some Japanese pastry—cream puffs with a very light filling, but so super delicious. A sweet tooth's dream!

Any new finds in Manila? Email me at sandydaza@shaw.ca.

Happy eating!

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN PG13
2 (DOLBY) A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 (DOLBY) RED EYE PG13
4 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SKY HIGH GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) LONG WEEKEND
2 (SDDS) SKY HIGH
3 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK
4 (GOLD DTS) CINDERELLA MAN
5 (GOLD DOLBY) RED EYE
6 (GOLD SDDS) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
7 (GOLD DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER
8 (DOLBY STEREO) THE CAVE
9 (DOLBY STEREO) LONGEST YARD
10 (DOLBY STEREO) LOVE STRUCK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) RED EYE
2 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
3 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 (DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SOUND OF THUNDER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LOVE STRUCK
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
2 (DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER
3 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 (DOLBY) LOVE STRUCK

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 RESERVED
4 LOVE STRUCK
5 LIPSTICK

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LIPSTICK

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVE STRUCK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LOVE STRUCK
2 VALIANT
3 (DTS EX) CINDERELLA MAN
4 LONGEST YARD

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 VALIANT
3 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
4 (DTS) LONGEST YARD

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
3 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD
4 (DTS) EVIL EYE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BEWITCHED
2 THE GREAT RAID

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
4 CINDERELLA MAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
3 (DTS) CINDERELLA MAN
4 DUKE OF HAZZARD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) EVIL EYE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SKELETON KEY
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
4 (DTS) BEWITCHED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) DAY AFTER TOMORROW
2 KANGKONG
3 LIPSTICK
4 (DTS) CRASH

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
2 HOTDOG
3 (DTS) DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 SKELETON KEY
5 LOVE STRUCK

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 SKY HIGH
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVE STRUCK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 WWXXX.COM
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LOVE STRUCK
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SOUND OF THUNDER
5 CINDERELLA MAN

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www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994
1 LIPSTICK
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
6 LOVE STRUCK

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www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) LISENSYADONG KAMAO
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CINDERELLA MAN
12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
LOVESTRUCK
12:15 / 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00 / 9:15
A SOUND OF THUNDER
1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20
ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BLDG.
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
THE CROW 4
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
CINDERELLA MAN 1:05 / 3:55 / 6:45 / 9:35
THE LONG WEEKEND
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
THE BROS. GRIMM
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
RED EYE
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
SKY HIGH
1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① LOVESTRUCK
12:05 R4 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05
② A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
③ CINDERELLA MAN
12:05 R3 / 2:15 / 5:05 / 7:55
④ LIPSTICK
12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
⑤ THE BROS. GRIMM
12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
UAAP CHEERING COMPETITION
September 17, Saturday, 2pm
UAAP Womens Final Four 11:30am , 2pm
September 18, Sunday DLSU vs UE 4pm

CENTER EVENTS
OPM CROSSROADS
2005 Guitar Festival II at the Gateway Drive starting 5pm. With performances by Nyoy Volante & Mannos, Blow, Stonefree, Radioactive Sago Project, Noel Cabangon, Mojofly, Wally Gonzales and 6 Cyclemind.

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

New films present diverse viewing options

PHOENIX and Witherspoon play Johnny Cash and June Carter in the new film, "Walk the Line."

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY MONTH, SCORES OF NEW MOVIES PRESENT THEMselves to the viewing public for its cinematic delectation. Here are four of the more promising films about to play on our cineplex screens:

"Walk the Line." This Johnny Cash biopic stars Joaquin Phoenix as the legendary country singer, and Reese Witherspoon as his wife, June Carter.

The film is ultimately uplifting: Johnny beats his addiction, makes peace with his emotionally distant father, and finally persuades June to tie the knot. But, Cash's story is also shaded with darkness: He was haunted by the loss of his older brother, Jack.

Musical biopic

Phoenix and Witherspoon do their own singing in "Walk the Line." This early, the musical biopic is already getting major Oscar buzz, so keep an eye out for it.

"The Exorcism of Emily Rose." In a rare decision, the Catholic Church officially recognizes the demonic possession of a 19-year-old college freshman. Told in terrifying flashbacks, "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" chronicles the trial of a priest accused of negligence, resulting in the death of the young woman believed to be possessed.

Inspired by true events, "Exorcism" stars Jennifer Carpenter as Emily Rose, Laura Linney as the lawyer defending the priest, and Tom Wilkinson as the accused cleric.

As the trial progresses, the lawyer's cynicism and atheism are challenged by the priest's unwavering faith, and by the inexplicable events that surround the case.

"Corpse Bride." The director-star combination of Tim Burton and Johnny Depp simply can't be beat, so take note of their latest collaboration, even if it's "only" an animated feature:

Mysterious

Set in a 19th-century European village, the stop-motion film tells the story of Victor (voice-acted by Depp), a young man who's whisked away to the underworld, and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride (Helena Bonham-Carter), while his real bride, Victoria (Emily Watson), waits in the land of the living.

Though life in the Land of the Dead proves to be a lot more colorful than his strict Victorian upbringing, Victor learns that there is nothing in the world, or the next, that can keep him away from his one true love.

"The Adventures of Shark Boy and Lava Girl in 3D." Max, an outcast boy, has gotten lost in his own fantasy world in an attempt to

NEW FILMS/ A4-2

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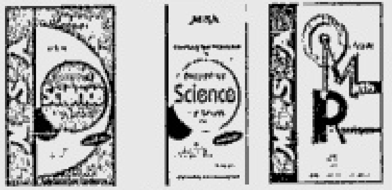
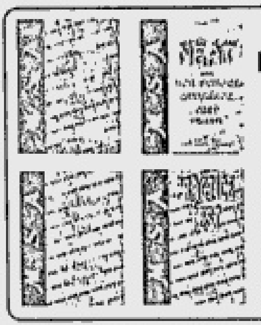


P 268.00 P 268.00 P 125.00



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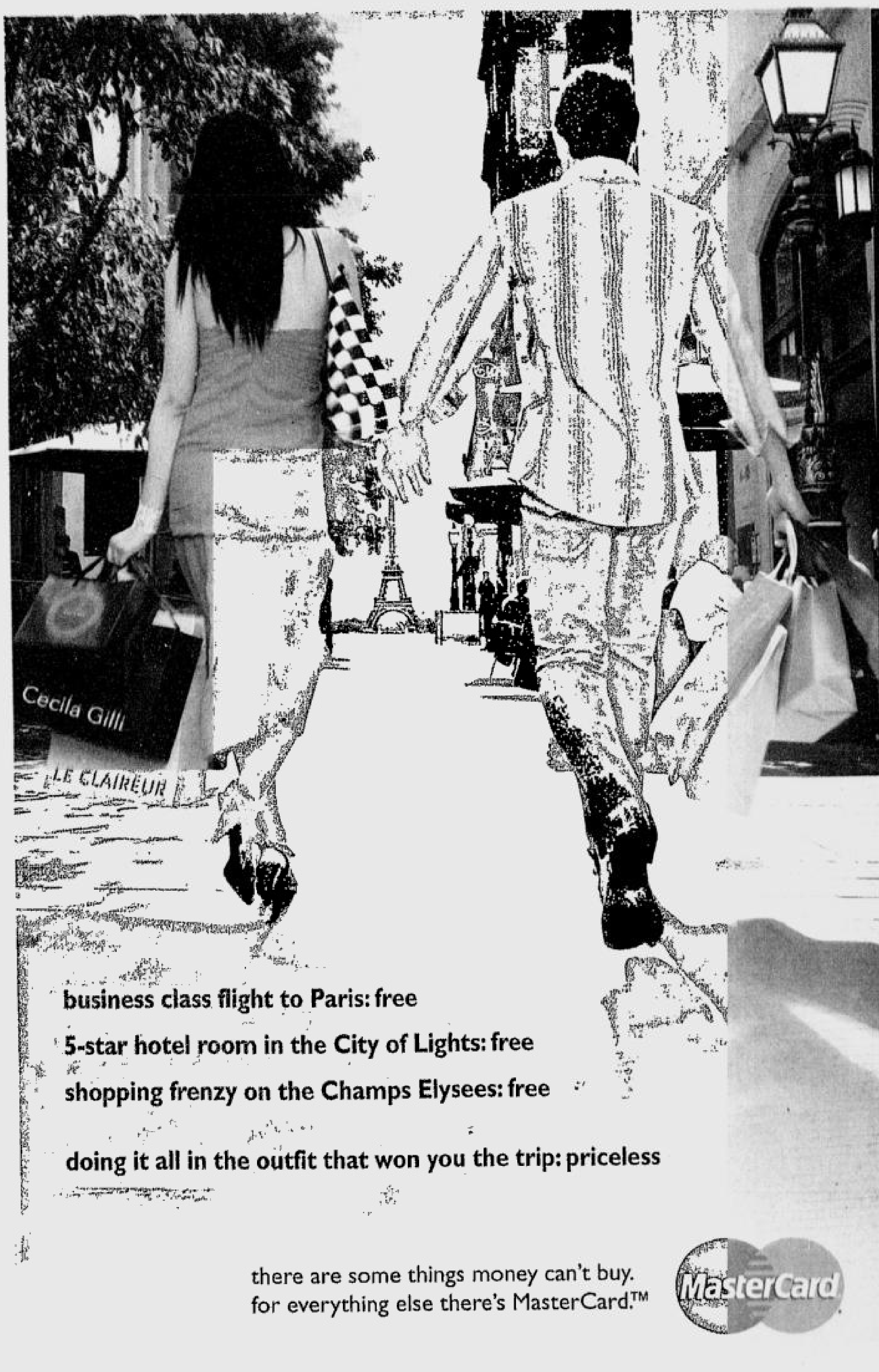

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howie severino PANTASYA NG BAYAN
jay taruc BASURERO
kara david HULING PRINSESA
sandra aguinaldo IKAREGLONG KASAL
raffy tima THE DOCTOR IS OUT OF TOWN
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4:00 to 6:00 PM SCREENING
raffy tima HIPO KONG BABAE
kara david BUTO'T BALAT
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September 13-17, 20-24
Cinema 10

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THE PODIUM 633-8976

1 SOUND OF THUNDER
11:20FS/11:50MF/02:05/04:20/06:35
08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:45END

2 CINDERELLA MAN
11:45FS/12:15MF/03:10/06:05
08:30LFS/09:00LFS/11:35END

MANILA

A SOUND OF THUNDER
10:10FS/10:25MF/12:40/02:55/05:10/07:25
09:00LFS/09:40LFS/11:25END

CEBU (032) 231-3876

1 SKY HIGH
10:45FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12
04:55FS/05:18LMF/07:00END

2 BROTHERS GRIMM
10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20
09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:30END

3 SOUND OF THUNDER
10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20
09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:15END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 RED EYE
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
5 THE CAVE
6 BROTHER GRIMM
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 LONG WEEEKEND
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 LITTLE MERMAID
11 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
12 SKY HIGH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 LOVESTRUCK
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 THE CAVE
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 RESERVED
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 A SOUND OF THUNDER
9 RESERVED
10 LONGEST YARD
11 RED EYE
12 LONGEST YARD

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 RESERVED
5 STARSTRUCK SEARCH
6 RED EYE
7 CINDERELLA MAN
8 SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY STA MESA
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE
5 RESERVED
6 RED EYE
7 LONG WEEKEND
8 SKY HIGH
9 LAZARUS CHILD SM movietime EXCLUSIVE
10 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 CINDERELLA MAN
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 SKY HIGH
7 THE CAVE
8 RED EYE
9 LONGEST YARD
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE CAVE
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
4 BROTHER GRIMM
5 SKY HIGH
6 CINDERELLA MAN
7 RED EYE
8 LONG WEEKEND
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
11 EVIL EYES
12 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 RED EYE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM SAN LAZARO
1 GMA7: I-WITNESS DOCU FEST
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RED EYE
4 CINDERELLA MAN
5 THE CAVE
6 LOVESTRUCK

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 CINDERELLA MAN
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 LONGEST YARD
4 RED EYE
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CAVE
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 RED EYE
8 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 RED EYE
2 LONGEST YARD
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 ARAHAN

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 RED EYE
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 SKELETON KEY
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 THE CAVE
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 SKY HIGH
5 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
6 RED EYE
7 LOVESTRUCK
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD
7 RESERVED
8 EVIL EYES

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 MAN OF THE HOUSE
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 LONGEST YARD
6 SKY HIGH

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 RED EYE
1:40, 4:00, 6:20
8:40, 11:00
PG-13

2 CINDERELLA MAN
11:20, 2:20, 5:20
8:20, 11:10
PG-13

3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
12:10, 2:55, 5:40
8:25, 11:00
PG-13

4 SOUND OF THUNDER
1:05, 3:35, 6:05
8:35, 11:00
PG-13

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CINDERELLA MAN PG13 11:20,2:10,5:00,7:50,10:35	BROTHERS GRIMM PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	A SOUND OF THUNDER PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15
RED EYE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	SKY HIGH GP 11:30,1:30,3:30,5:30 ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING 7:30,9:30	CINDERELLA MAN PG13 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10

FATHER & SON JOIN FORCES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A MARTIAL ARTS EPIC FILMED IN THE TRADITION OF "HERO" & "CROUCHING TIGER"
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MATT DAMON
HEATH LEDGER MONICA BELLUCCI LENA HEADY
THE BROTHERS GRIMM

DOOLEY. Plays Lava Girl in Robert Rodriguez' sci-fi adventure.

New films . . .

From page A4-1

escape the everyday problems of dealing with parents and school bullies.

But, Max realizes that the high-flying adventures and incredible secret powers in his imagination may be far more real than he thought, and his whole world changes.

DEPP (LEFT). Lends his voice to Victor Van Dort, protagonist of Tim Burton's "Corpse Bride."

Now, Max blasts off on a mission to Planet Drool where Shark Boy and Lava Girl (Taylor Lautner and Taylor Dooley, respectively) live in a realm of astounding wonders. But, the shocking Mr. Electric wants to do away with all dreams forever, so Max has to fight him—by learning the power of turning his dreams into reality!

Reality . . .

From page A4-4

'Erotica'

Hotbabe Asia Agcaoili has come up with a second informative sex video, "Erotica: Lessons of the Flesh." She reveals new sensual techniques for men and women, takes viewers through a series of "sexercises," and shares tips about flirting and sensual positions.

Joining Asia are Hotbabes Katrina Gonzales, Ella V., Maricar dela Fuente, Briana Blanco and Zara Lopez, and Hotmen Allen Dizon, Justin de Leon, McMiel Denisson and Tonio Quiazon.

Quirky . . .

From page A4-4

It may sound quirky on paper, but it doesn't work that well on-screen. The story is full of holes you can't always ignore or forgive, and the script itself is so earnest in trying to be funny that it fails.

Celebrity cameos

On the upside, the lead actors are charming and charismatic, and you'll see a lot of celebrity cameos. The best would be Tom Hanks' head in a mailbox, one of the film's few spontaneously funny moments.

In the end, though, the movie's humor rests on such flimsy bits as shots of Denise Richards in a shiny, sparkly Elvis suit. So don't expect another "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"—"Elvis Has Left the Building" has half the fun, and only a smattering of the smarts.

Celebrities stretch thespic wings in music videos

FROM CYNTHIA BATARIO: "I LIKE SEEING my favorite celebrities in music videos. I'm curious about the young actor who starred in Mariah Carey's, 'We Belong Together' opposite Eric Roberts. Who is he?"

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Since the '80s, music videos have been providing another venue for actors to stretch their thespic wings and reach out to the medium's young demographic. They also allow directors to experiment with fresh ideas that are otherwise limited by the usually linear conventions of feature-length filmmaking. For these filmmakers, it's an exercise in compact storytelling—they have to show the gist of the song in four minutes, more or less!

CAREY. Acted with Eric Roberts in "We Belong Together."

No. 1 smash

Mariah Carey's No. 1 smash, "We Belong Together," features Julia Roberts' brother, Eric Roberts, as the jilted groom. The lucky actor who gets to kiss the pop diva is Wentworth Miller, a former model-turned-actor who was last seen in "Dinotopia."

He also played the young Anthony Hopkins in the Nicole Kidman starrer "The Human Stain." Director Brett Ratner ("Rush Hour," "Red Dragon") helmed the video. Ratner also directed Carey's "Heartbreaker," which paired Mariah and Jerry O'Connell.

Christopher Walken became hip again after his terpsichorean skills were featured in Fat Boy Slim's "Weapon of

CELEBRITIES/ A4-4

Red Kandi 50
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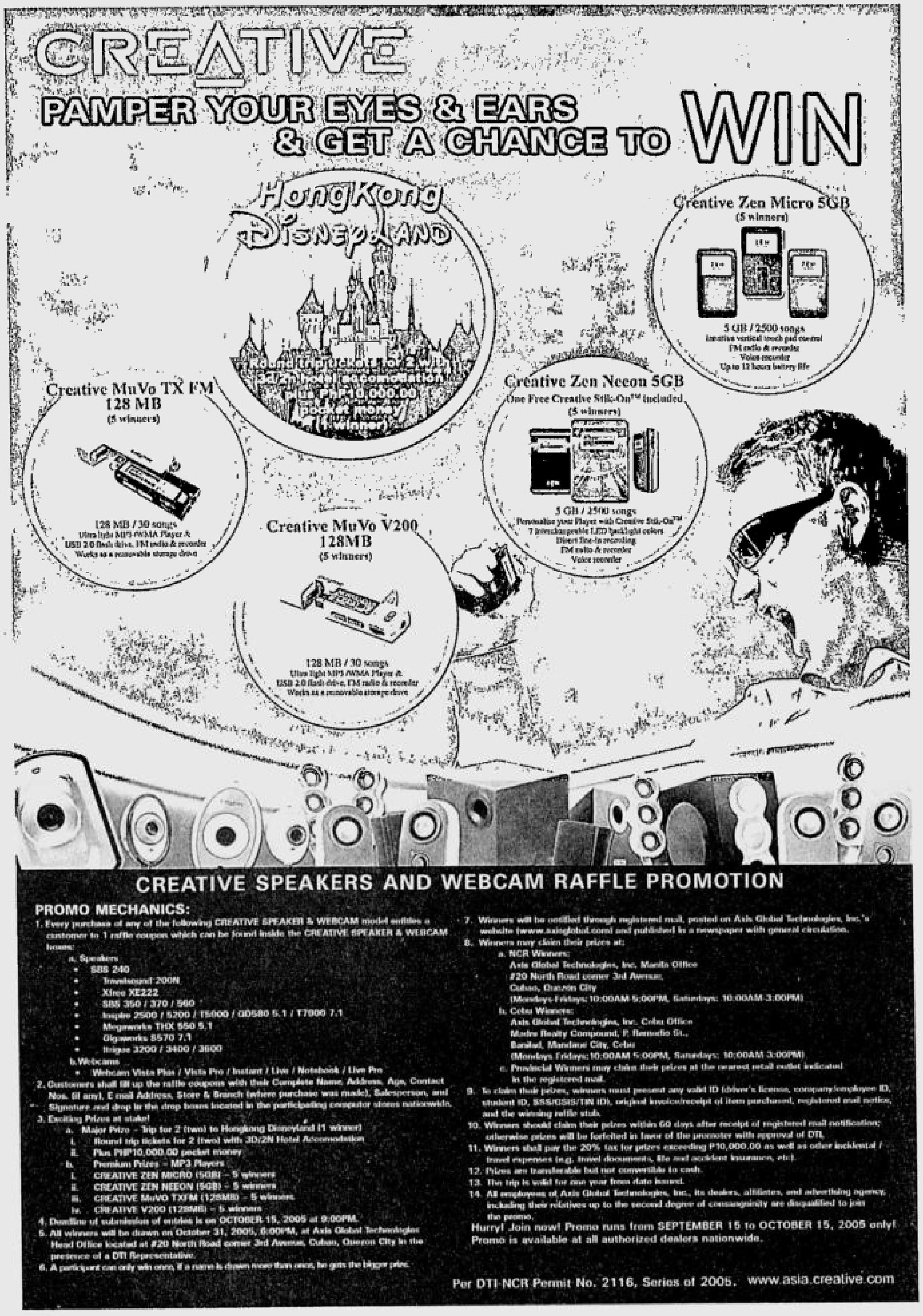
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  - Gigaworks S570 7.1
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5. All winners will be drawn on October 31, 2005, 6:00PM, at Axis Global Technologies Head Office located at #20 North Road corner 3rd Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City in the presence of a DTI Representative.
6. A participant can only win once, if a name is drawn more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
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  (Mondays-Fridays: 10:00AM-5:00PM, Saturdays: 10:00AM-3:00PM)
 b. Cebu Winners:
  Axis Global Technologies, Inc. Cebu Office
  Madre Realty Compound, P. Remedio St.,
  Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
  (Mondays-Fridays: 10:00AM-5:00PM, Saturdays: 10:00AM-3:00PM)
 c. Provincial Winners may claim their prizes at the nearest retail outlet indicated in the registered mail.
9. To claim their prizes, winners must present any valid ID (driver's license, company/employee ID, student ID, SSS/GSIS/TIN ID), original invoice/receipt of item purchased, registered mail notice, and the winning raffle stub.
10. Winners should claim their prizes within 60 days after receipt of registered mail notification; otherwise prizes will be forfeited in favor of the promoter with approval of DTI.
11. Winners shall pay the 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00 as well as other incidental / travel expenses (e.g. travel documents, life and accident insurance, etc).
12. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2116, Series of 2005. www.asia.creative.com

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Quirky script doesn't work well on the big screen

By Noelani Torre

CORBETT AND BASINGER. Topbill the comedy, "Elvis Has Left the Building."

WAY BACK IN 1956, THE YOUNG, ALmost-superstar Elvis Presley performed for 45 minutes to an audience of 10,000 shrieking, pre-Beatles kids in Shreveport, Louisiana. When he left the stage, everyone started leaving as well, despite the fact that he was by no means the only performer that night. Desperate, the emcee grabbed the mike and said, "Please, young people . . . Elvis has left the building. He has gotten in his car and driven away. . . . Please, take your seats!"

History

The rest is Elvis history. Since then, "Elvis has left the building" has come to mean that the end has come—the fat lady has finished her song and it's time to let the curtain fall, sweep the floor, turn off the lights, and close the door behind you.

This, beneath all the camp, sequins, and neurotic FBI agents, is apparently what the comedy, "Elvis Has Left the Building," is trying to say. To be more specific, and since the plot involves the death of more than a few Elvis impersonators, it's safe to assume that what it's saying is that the soul of Elvis ought to be allowed to rest in peace.

The elimination of Elvis impersonators is a notable endeavor to be sure, but as the sole punchline for a full-length film, it leaves much to be desired. Especially when the film is a project of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding's" Joel Zwick and stars Kim Basinger, John Corbett and Sean Astin.

Basinger is Harmony Jones, a Pink Lady (like your Avon lady, only in pink) who's successfully sold millions of lipsticks, but feels that there's more to life besides peddling cosmetics.

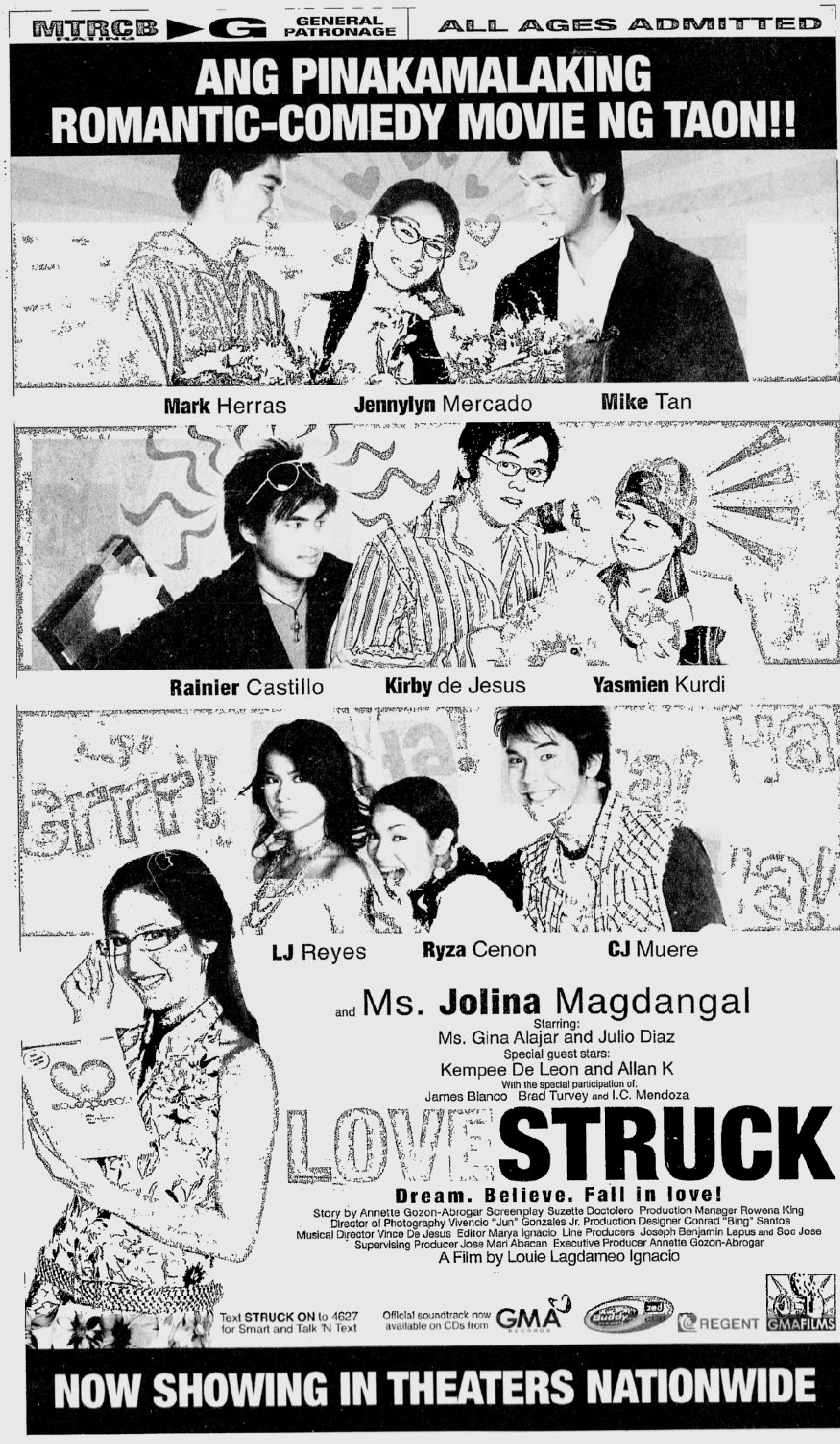
A heart-to-heart with the King himself during her childhood has impacted the course of her life—and when Elvis impersonators start dropping like flies whenever she's around, she realizes that maybe this was what he meant when he told her way back then that she would do something for him in the future.

Catalyst

She doesn't really kill them, it's more like her being a catalyst for the most bizarre accidents—Elvis wannabes getting inadvertently burned to death, felled by flying lipstick tubes and mailboxes, and falling through a hotel roof *en masse*! All these deaths attract the attention of the authorities, and Harmony has to hot-foot it out of town.

While on the run, she meets and falls in love with a New York ad executive (Corbett), who's also avoiding the Feds after his own fatal mishap with an Elvis impersonator. The authorities take the form of a classic mismatched duo—a cleanliness-obsessed neurotic and his beefy old-school partner—who star in their own little subplot.

QUIRKY/ A4-2



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Special guest stars:
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With the special participation of:
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Dream. Believe. Fall in love!

Story by Annette Gozon-Abrogar Screenplay Suzette Doctolero Production Manager Rowena King Director of Photography Vivencio "Jun" Gonzales Jr. Production Designer Conrad "Bing" Santos Musical Director Vince De Jesus Editor Marya Ignacio Line Producers Joseph Benjamin Lapus and Soc Jose Supervising Producer Jose Mari Abacan Executive Producer Annette Gozon-Abrogar

A Film by Louie Lagdameo Ignacio

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VALDES. Her hit show returns to Mandarin's Captain's Bar.

Reality stars on 'Fear Factor'

MONTAGE

ON MONDAY, SEPT. 19 AT 8 P.M. ON AXN, "Fear Factor" presents a special challenge for six former contestants from reality shows. They include Omarosa from "The Apprentice," Nikki Mckibbin from "American Idol," and Ethan Zohn from "Survivor Africa." The stunts they are required to perform are the dual helicopter rope crawl, a really gross obstacle course, the spinning water cage, and a car-over-car ramp leap.

'A Rockin' Comedy' repeat run

After her hit show at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental ended, Mitch Valdes was urged to stage a repeat run. She had to adjust her schedule to fit in the additional performances, but the extended run of "A Rockin' Comedy" is now on. Mitch racks up the jokes and sings her heart out tonight, and on Sept. 23 and 30, and Oct. 1. Not to be missed.

Trip to Singapore

Lucky MTV Credit Card holders recently won a free trip to Singapore to visit the MTV studios and rub elbows with its veejays. Cardholders Yasmini Cornejo, Stevenson Van Derodar and Wilma Labadnoy bagged the grand prize, seven others won iPod Minis, and five got gift certificates from Chocolate Clothing Co. Log on to www.equitablecard.com/mtv.

Bobby Soul

Bobby Soul brings back musical memories of The Platters at 8 p.m. today, as he celebrates his 67th birthday with a special concert at Djaka Bar and Restuarant on Tomas Morato ave. Call 0919 345-3938.

REALITY/ A4-2

REEVES. Played Paula Abdul's romantic interest in "Rush Rush."

Celebrities . . .

From page A4-3

Choice." On the other hand, before Jennifer Lopez grabbed the spotlight, she was merely one of Janet Jackson's groupies in "That's the Way Love Goes."

"Torque's" Martin Henderson is Britney Spear's leading man in her "Toxic" video, and David Boreanaz ("Buffy," "Angel") plays the soulmate Dido never meets in the bittersweet "White Flag."

Remake

Jennifer Love Hewitt has likewise done her share of music-video duty: LFO's "Girl on TV" (when she was still dating Rich Cronin), Smash Mouth's "Can't Get Enough of You" and Enrique Iglesias' "Hero." Claudia Schiffer added sizzle to Westlife's remake of the Billy Joel hit, "Uptown Girl," and so did Gwyneth Paltrow in Melissa Etheridge's "I Wanna Come Over."

Antonio Sabato Jr. made hearts race as Janet Jackson's desert boy in "Love Will Never Do (Without You)," and as the object of singer Tatyana Ali's desire in "Daydreaming."

Other heartthrobs in popular music videos: Keanu Reeves in Paula Abdul's "Rush Rush," Freddie Prinze Jr. in Sixpence None The Richer's "Kiss Me," and Will Smith in Diana King's "Shy Guy." Michael Jackson's haunting "Liberian Girl" featured several actors: Olivia Newton-John, Brigitte Nielsen and NYPD Blue's Rick Schroeder.

Anecdotal

On the local front, former "Guwapings" heartthrob Eric Fructuoso appears in Dimsum's "TY 4 Ur Luv." Sugarfree's anecdotal "Hari ng Sablay" features Joel Torre and Jackie Lou Blanco. Aliyah Parcs shares romantic moments with Jericho Rosales in "Close My Eyes."

Ogie Alcasid's "Sana," (which won as MTV Asia's best male music video, and was later covered by Sharon Cuneta) featured Regine Velasquez and Jaya—as jeepney commuters!

Paolo Bediones plays Jaya's paramour in "Di Na Ba Kita Mapipigilan?" And, the soul diva does a cameo, with Dingdong Dantes and *Ate* Glow, in Kyla's MTV for her cover of the Michael Jackson classic, "Human Nature."

WHAT'S INSIDE
Aboitiz eyes sale of treasury shares /B2
Downstream natural gas sector secures funding commitment /B3
Strike looms at Makati Med /B12

BUSINESS

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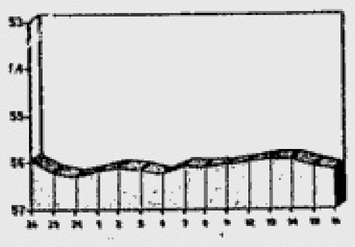
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

BIR overstates August collection by P1.4B

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P56.17 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 16, 2005

¥110.66 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 16, 2005

GOLD: **$449.00-449.50**
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 15, 2005

Shares rise 0.4%

SHARES rose yesterday as investors accumulated blue chips led by Globe Telecom and Metropolitan Bank.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index was up 6.71 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,909.80, after falling 0.6 percent Thursday.

Globe Telecom gained 2.7 percent to P760, while Metrobank ad-

SHARES/ B2

By Michelle V. Remo

Revenue agency included non-cash payment of Treasury

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue overstated its tax collection for August by P1.4 billion.

Documents from the Department of Finance, the BIR's head agency, showed that the tax bureau collected only P53.7 billion in August compared with the P55.1 billion that the revenue office reported earlier.

The overstatement resulted from the BIR's move to include non-cash payments as part of its collection for the month.

A finance official said the P1.4-billion non-cash payment that was included in the BIR's collection was the one given by the Bureau of Treasury to cover its documentary stamp tax (DST) liabilities. Government securities such as treasury bills and bonds sold by the Treasury are subject to the DST.

Instead of paying its P1.4 billion in DST liabilities, the Treasury gave the BIR a tax remittance advise (TRA) to cover for the taxes due. A TRA is a document that a government agency can issue to the BIR as a form of tax payment. The TRA serves as a notice to the national government that it can simply deduct the tax liabilities from the budget that will be allocated to the agency.

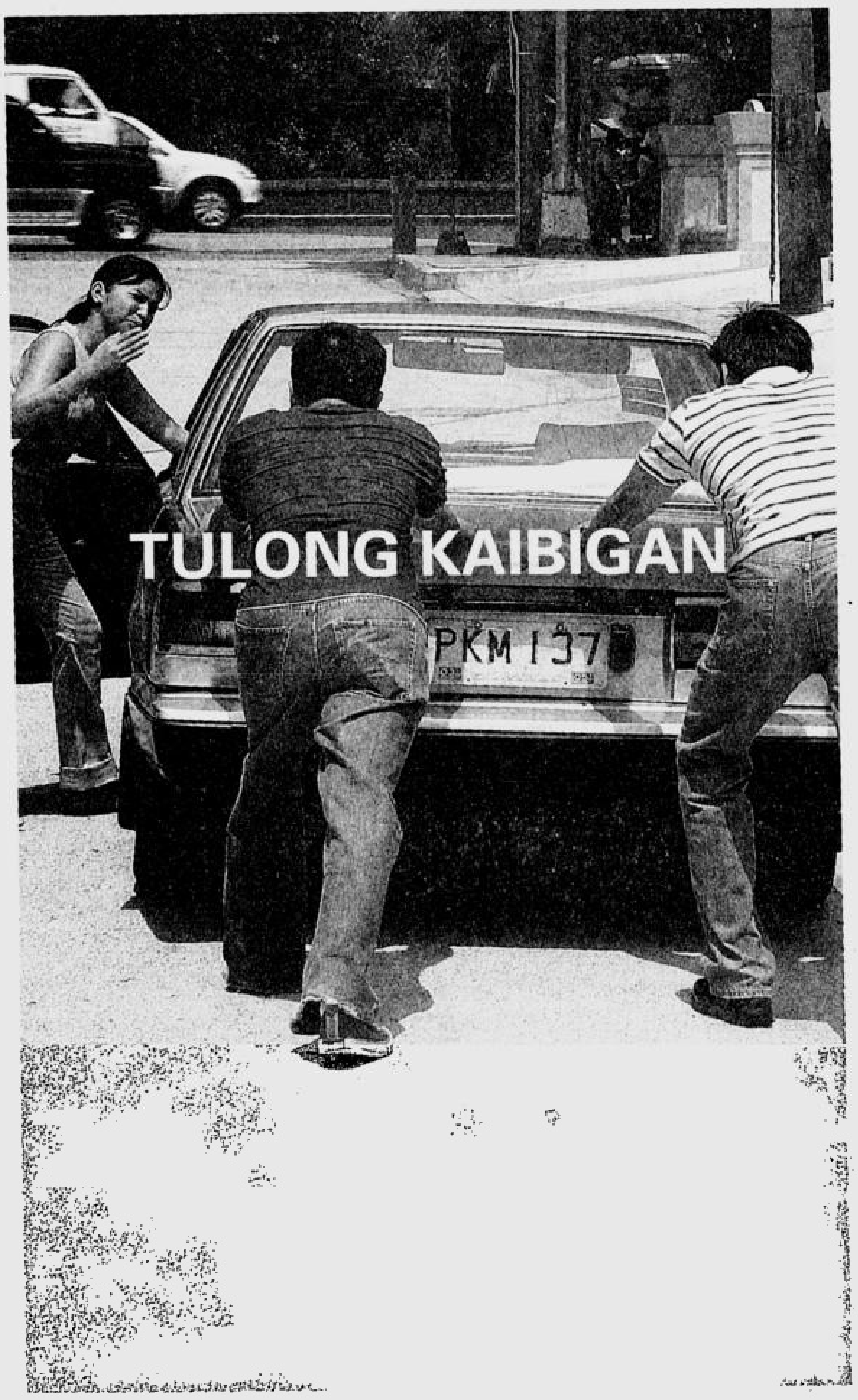
"When one pays using the TRA, the BIR does not receive any cash. The TRA is for book-entry purposes only," the finance official said.

The official said the interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the body tasked with setting the government's economic policies and targets, has adopted the policy that tax payments in the form of TRAs should only be indicated as a memo item in the BIR's collection report and should not be included in the computation of the actual collection.

But the correction made in the BIR's August collection did not erase its record of surpassing its collection target for the month. The BIR's revised August collection of P53.7 billion was still P1.9 billion higher than the P51.8 billion it was tasked to collect for the month.

The correction, however, would mean that the budget surplus for August would be lower than expected. National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said the national government could have posted a budget surplus of about P3 billion in August.

BIR OVERSTATES/ B2



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Aboitiz eyes sale of treasury shares

To raise funds for energy projects, acquisitions

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ABOITIZ GROUP IS PLANNING A roadshow this year to lure local and foreign investors to buy P4 billion worth of its treasury shares, a top company official told the INQUIRER.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures had said it was raising fresh funds from the sale of 890 million treasury shares possibly this year.

AEV traded at P5 a share yesterday.

Sources told the INQUIRER that AEV was looking to participate in the expected bidding for the government's 12-MW Masiway plant and 100-MW Pantabangan facility in Nueva Ecija sometime in November.

In a separate disclosure yesterday, AEV said its subsidiary, Davao Light & Power Co. Inc., had sold a total of 12 million shares of AEV at P4.95 each.

The Aboitiz Group is setting aside some P5-P6 billion for possible investments in power generation in the next two to three years.

Officials said the group was also looking at the possibility of bidding for power plants owned by the cash-strapped National Power Corp.

The company is particularly interested in Napocor's hydroelectric plants in Ambuklao and Binga, both in Benguet, the two power facilities in Nueva Ecija, and the 300-MW Magat plant in Northern Luzon. AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz had said the Aboitiz group was currently doing due-diligence on these plants.

To further solidify its power generation business, the Aboitiz Group through subsidiary Hydroelectric Development Corp. (Hedcor) is putting up a 40-MW hydroelectric power plant in Davao.

Aboitiz estimated that the project would cost roughly P3.5 billion. Hedcor will start construction on the plant by next year and hopefully start operations in 2008.

AEV earlier partnered with Norwegian firm SN Power Invest AS to jointly bid for and develop Napocor's hydroelectric assets that have been lined up for privatization.

SMC earns $10.24M from Vietnam units

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. HAS BEEN REAPING the benefits of Vietnam's bustling economy, reporting a double digit growth in revenue to $10.24 million for the first seven months of the year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, San Miguel said that the revenue of its packaging plants in Vietnam—San Miguel Yamamura Haiphong Glass Co. Ltd and San Miguel Phu Tho Packaging Co. Ltd.—was 11.2 percent higher than the $9.21 million it posted year-on-year.

The two SMPP facilities cater to the food and beverage sectors in Vietnam.

The company's packaging division, San Miguel Packaging Products, runs both its domestic and international packaging businesses.

San Miguel expanded its Vietnam operations just as the country's private consumption jumped 13 percent in 2004 from 7 percent the year before, accelerated by rising employment and growing incomes. Vietnam is considered to have one of the fastest growing economies in the region.

As of June this year, San Miguel's packaging group sales grew 26 percent to P10.34 billion against the previous year.

Better management of fixed costs and savings realized from the use of lower-cost raw materials bolstered operating income.

Shares

From page B1

vanced 5.9 percent at P27 on continued bargain hunting.

Buying activity, however, wasn't broad based, with decliners ahead of gainers 30 to 26. There were 49 stocks unchanged.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, falling 0.3 percent to P1,535 on profit-taking. Also suffering losses was Bank of the Philippine Islands, off one percent at P51.

PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro said concern over efforts to water down the expanded value-added tax law—the centerpiece of the government's fiscal reform program—has kept sellers from exiting the market.

A congressional ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo has filed a resolution seeking to defer the implementation of the VAT on oil and energy products until June next year due to rising oil prices.

The Supreme Court on Sept. 1 upheld the legality of the expanded VAT law, but didn't lift the suspension it imposed on the measure in July to give the opposition a chance to challenge the ruling. Opposing parties have until Friday to file a motion. *AP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 16, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	1,123,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	50.5	51	2,629,400
China Banking Corp.	840	840	830	830	370
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	270,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	48.5	49	255,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26.5	27	911,500
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	1,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.75	14	14	26,700
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	8,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	50,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2850	2850	2850	2850	420
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	90,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2075	2100	2075	2095	3,530
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	101,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.98	750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	740	765	740	760	119,150
Ipeople Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	6,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	2,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	19,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	2,397,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1555	1555	1535	1535	395,760
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	120,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	3,300,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	28,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	20.75	19.75	20	3,688,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	248,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.15	6,676,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.26	559,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	153,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.8	2,265,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.54	1,600,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	170,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	142,500
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	130,000
San Miguel Corp. B	95	97.5	95	95.5	380,100
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	51,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	560,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	295	300	295	300	98,270
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	350,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	5	5,930,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	7,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	2,238,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	48,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.69	0.66	0.69	80,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	3,352,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	120,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,335,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	40,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	397,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44	43.5	44	285,600
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	274,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	3,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	1,262,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	540,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.24	190,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	264,000
SM Investments Corp.	212	212	208	209	487,920
South China Resources Inc.	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.77	110,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	6,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	1,880,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.23	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	22,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	250,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	1,640,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.54	1,841,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	713,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	23,664,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	9,180,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,900,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.8	4.95	4.8	4.9	5,871,000
SM Development Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	9,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	9,934,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.93	0.96	0.93	0.95	1,040,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.94	0.96	0.94	0.96	190,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	31,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	841,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	12,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	19,370,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.29	3,550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	10,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	134,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0056	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	62,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.84	2,830,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.06	3,960,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	579,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	49,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.43	100,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	1,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	1,500,000

DISCLOSURES

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. (AEV) disclosed that a subsidiary of the company, Davao Light & Power Co. Inc., sold on Sept. 15 a total of 12 million shares of AEV at the price of P4.95 per share.

***

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. opened yesterday, Sept. 16, its newest branch on 429 Shaw Blvd., Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City. The Shaw Boulevard branch will be open from Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

***

DIZON Copper-Silver Mines Inc. elected new officers during an organizational meeting on Sept. 15: Gregorio C. Dizon, chair; Teresita D. Dizon, president; Frederick D. Matsuda, treasurer; Francis V. Gustilo, corporate secretary; and Matsuda and Gustilo, disclosure officers. Four committees were also formed: the Nomination Committee to be chaired by Teresita D. Dizon, with independent director Corazon O. Abaya and Amado Santiago Jr.; the Compensation and Remuneration Committee, also chaired by Teresita D. Dizon, with independent director Serafin N. Feliciano and Matsuda; the Audit Committee, with independent director Abaya, Matsuda, Agnes H. Maranan and Rafael P. Dizon III; and the Executive Committee, chaired by Matsuda and with members Teresita D. Dizon, Rafael P. Dizon III and Gregorio C. Dizon. ***Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 16, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.818063	1.000000	56.0140
Japan	Yen	0.007391	0.009035	0.5061
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477421	1.806000	101.1613
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105439	0.128889	7.2196
Switzerland	Franc	0.645465	0.789017	44.1960
Canada	Dollar	0.690232	0.843739	47.2612
Singapore	Dollar	0.487174	0.595522	33.3576
Australia	Dollar	0.627349	0.766871	42.9555
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.170043	2.652661	148.5862
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218132	0.266645	14.9359
Brunei	Dollar	0.485728	0.593754	33.2585
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019977	0.024420	1.3679
UAE	Dirham	0.222851	0.272413	15.2589
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.222400	68.4715
Argentina	Peso	0.280639	0.343053	19.2158
Brazil	Real	0.355525	0.434594	24.3433
Denmark	Kroner	0.134157	0.163994	9.1860
India	Rupee	0.018669	0.022821	1.2783
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217050	0.265322	14.8617
Mexico	New Peso	0.075649	0.092473	5.1798
New Zealand	Dollar	0.577076	0.705418	39.5133
South Africa	Rand	0.128203	0.156715	8.7782
Korea	Won	0.000798	0.000975	0.0546
Sweden	Kroner	0.107117	0.130940	7.3345
Syria	Pound	0.015759	0.019264	1.0791
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024964	0.030516	1.7093

BIR overstates . . .

From page B1

The correction also meant that the BIR's collection for the January-to-August period was only P354.4 billion compared with the P355.8 billion reported earlier. It effect, the BIR was still P9.3 billion—and not P7.9 billion—short of the P363.7 billion that it was tasked to collect for the eight-month period.

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  Intel® 915PM Express Chipset
  Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG Network Connection 802.11b/g
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
- 256MB DDR SDRAM / 40GB HDD with shock absorber
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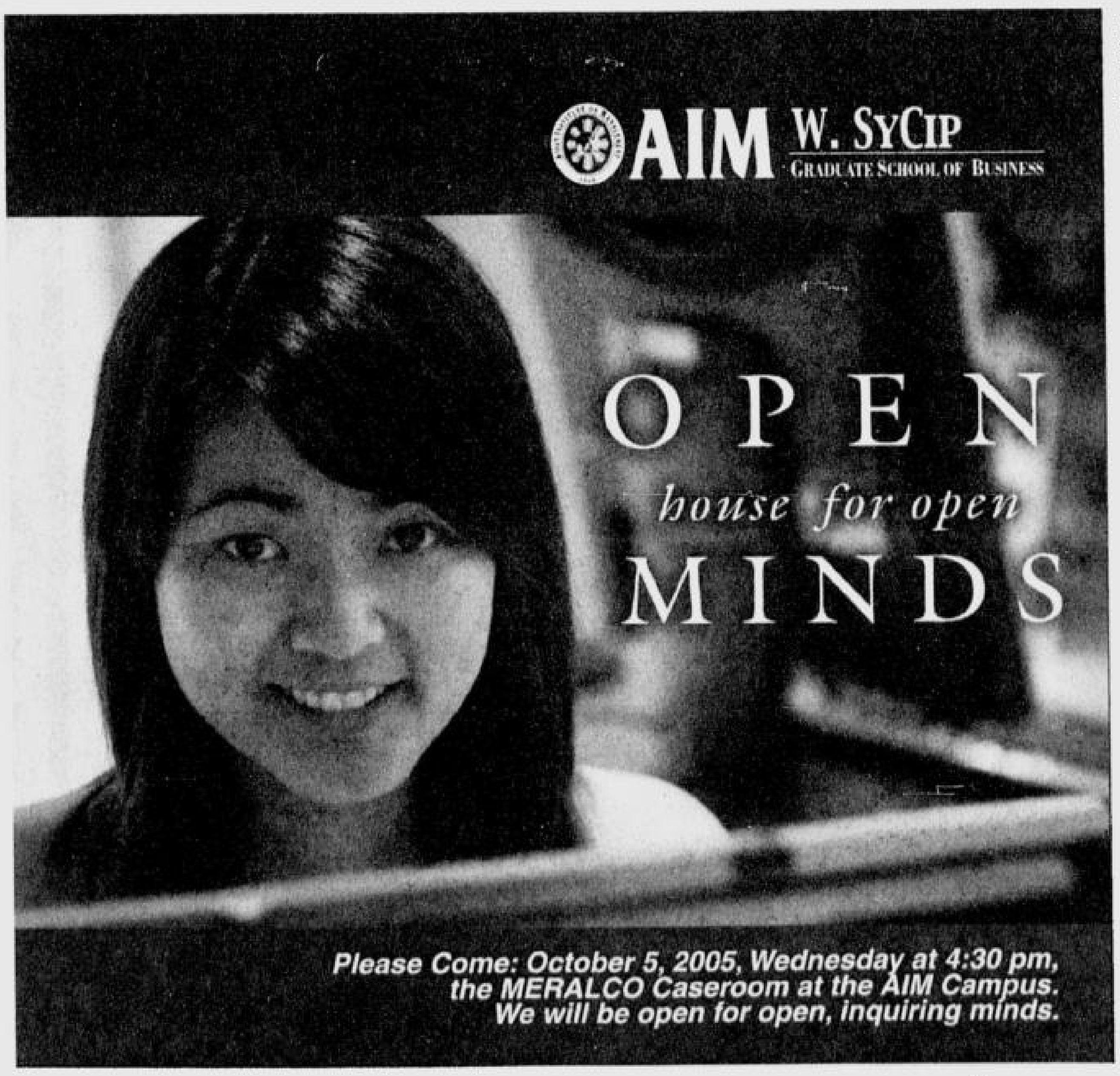

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RP posts record 8-mo BOP surplus

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY POSTED A balance of payments surplus of $2.29 billion from January to August this year, rebounding from a $220- million deficit a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

It was the strongest cumulative BOP level seen so far this decade, mirroring the build-up of the country's gross international reserves to an all-time high of $17.85 billion as of end-August.

"The BOP surplus was a product of sustained exports, high overseas Filipino workers' remittances, continued inflows of foreign direct and portfolio investments and proceeds from external borrowings," said BSP Officer-in-Charge Diwa Guinigundo.

For the month of August alone, the BOP surplus stood at $297 million, a turnaround from a deficit of $127 million a year ago.

The August surplus was also better than the $13-million surplus recorded in July this year.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as cash transfers, such as remittances from migrant workers.

During the period in review, the foreign exchange inflows were boosted largely by the proceeds from the loans of National Power Corp., earnings from the BSP's foreign exchange operations and income from overseas investments.

In the meantime, Guinigundo reported that after recording net inflows for six consecutive weeks, the BSP's foreign portfolio investments monitoring for the week ending Sept. 9 showed an overall net outflow of $29.8 million.

Downstream natural gas sector secures funding commitment

Energy, mining getting attractive to US investors

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FAVILA

A GROUP OF US-BASED BANKS committed to help raise a $1-billion funding facility for the local downstream natural gas industry, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila said yesterday.

Favila, who is accompanying President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her visit to the US, said in a statement that this commitment was contained in a memorandum of understanding signed in New York by the US National Bank Association and Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya.

Favila said the banks' commitment meant the success of the administration's economic managers in attracting American investors to do business in the Philippines, specifically in the power sector and the mining industry.

Under the agreement, the Department of Energy is tasked to promote the importation of passenger buses that run on compressed natural gas through the Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport.

The DOE is also expected to encourage the establishment of a network of CNG depots and refilling stations.

For its part, US National Bank Association will advise the energy department on matters related to trade financing and assist in securing financing for the project.

Favila also said Philippine officials were able to solicit the interest of American investors during a series of meetings in the on-going privatization program in the power sector.

He said several American businessmen felt that the current situation in the Philippine power and mining sectors showed that it "makes a lot of good economic sense to do business" in the country.

Among the investment opportunities that were promoted in the US were the sale of four power facilities in the country, such as the Calaca coal-fired project in Batangas, the Pantabangan and the Masiway hydro projects in Nueva Ecija, and the Limay thermal plant in Bataan.

Favila said the President's economic team also gave interested investors an update on the privatization of the National Transmission Corp., now the subject of a valuation by a private firm accredited by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

BOI cancels registration of 146 investment projects

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS CANCELLED the registration of and the incentives made available to 146 investment projects due to their failure to comply with the terms of their registration.

The BOI issued a list of companies whose registrations and tax perks were cancelled, including garment firms, steel and metal manufacturers and electronics producers

BOI officials said many of these companies could no longer be found in their supposed addresses. Most of them, it added, failed to submit routine reports such as tax payments and other documents required of business establishments.

The list was a result of the agency's monitoring of BOI-registered firms conducted from May to August.

The BOI had required those in the list to surrender within 15 days upon receipt of the notice their certificates of registration.

According to the implementing rules of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, the registration of projects could be revoked on the following grounds:

- failure to maintain qualifications for registration as required by the code;
- violation of any provision of the code violation of any of these rules and regulations or any of the general or specific terms and conditions for registration; and
- violation of any law for the protection of labor or of the consuming public.

Another rule stated that registration could be canceled automatically if there was a delay of one year in the implementation of the project timetable as set by the BOI and if the firm withdrew from or suspended its operations.

Ronnel W. Domingo

17 wind sites up for development

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WILL OFFER for development 17 wind sites to potential investors in the next few weeks.

This would be the government's follow-up to the 1st Wind Power Contracting Round held in March where 16 wind sites were offered to investors for development.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said 17 wind sites with a total generating capacity of 500 megawatts (MW) would be offered to prospective investors for the second contracting round.

In Luzon, the potential sites include those in Bani and Bolinao in Pangasinan with potentials of 40 MW each; Tagaytay, Cavite with 30 MW, and Donsol-Jovellar with 70 MW, Donsol and Pilar with 40 MW each and Matnog with 10 MW, all in Sorsogon.

The Visayas wind sites to be offered for development are those in Dumangas in Iloilo with a potential of 50 MW; Siquijor with 10 MW; Carmen and Oslob in Cebu with 20 MW and 30 MW, respectively; Allen-Lavezares in Northern Samar with 10 MW, and Tomas Oppus in Southern Leyte with 10 MW.

The lone wind site in Mindanao to be offered to investors is in Gigaquit in Surigao Del Norte with a potential of 30 MW.

According to Department of Energy data, the country's total wind potential is placed at around 70,000 MW.

Of the 16 sites offered during the 1st Wind Power Contracting Round, Lotilla said pre-commercial contracts (PCCs) had been issued to three firms for the development of five areas.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Circular No. 492
Series of 2005

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 1028 dated 4 August 2005, Section X145.c of the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MORB) and Section 4144Q.c of the Manual of Regulations for Non-Bank Financial Institutions (MORNBFI), as amended by Circular No. 446 dated 3 September 2004, are hereby amended as follows:

Item 3 shall be added to Section X145.c of the MORB and Section 4144Q.c of the MORNBFI, as amended by Circular No. 446 dated 3 September 2004, to read as follows:

"As a general rule, there shall be no concurrent officerships between banks/NBQBs or between a bank/NBQB and non-bank financial intermediary, whether or not performing quasi-banking functions, except as follows:

1) x x x

2) x x x

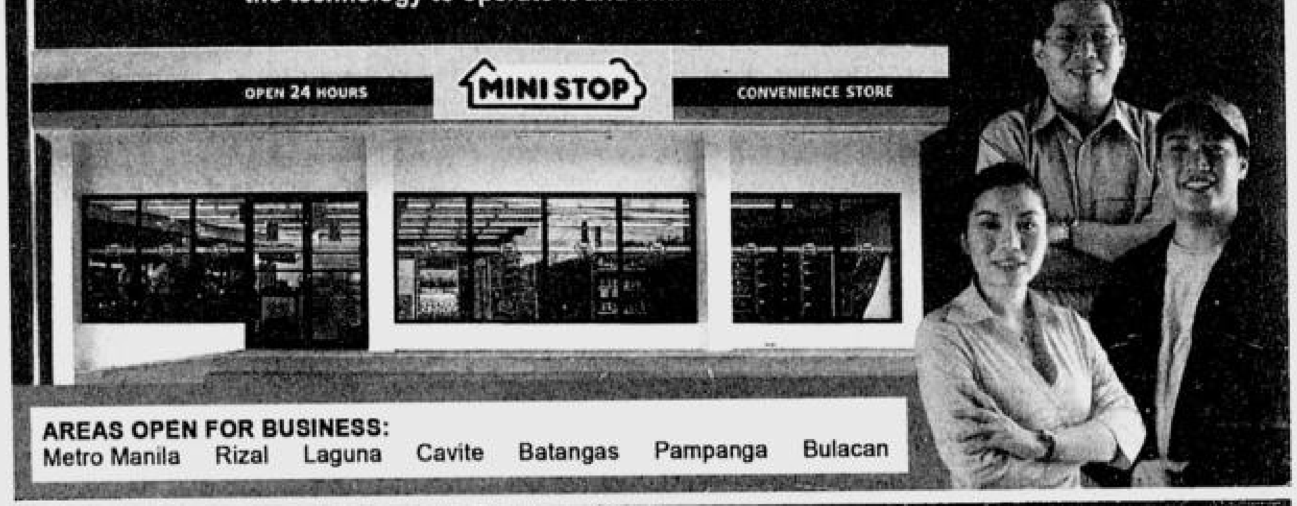
3) WITH PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE MONETARY BOARD, THE FOLLOWING CONCURRENT OFFICERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE SAME CAPACITY WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS, I.E., INTERNAL AUDITOR, CORPORATE SECRETARY, ASSISTANT CORPORATE SECRETARY AND SECURITY OFFICER, MAY BE ALLOWED BETWEEN A BANK/NBQB AND TWO (2) OR MORE OF ITS SUBSIDIARY/AFFILIATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE GROUP."

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

For the Monetary Board:

(Sgd.) **AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.**
Governor

August 31, 2005



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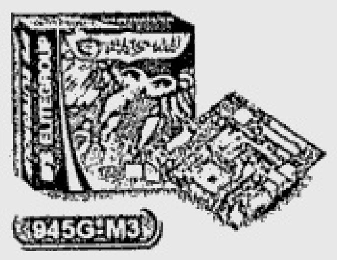

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Standards on virgin coco oil out

By Cesar C. Villariba Jr.
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE National Standards (PNS) for virgin coconut oil (VCO) is out: taste matters. VCO need not be a bitter pill to swallow to work as medicine.

Coconut oil has come a long way from being maligned as bad for the heart to gaining worldwide acceptability as the preferred health oil in the 21st century. Because it possesses health benefits in addition to nutritional effects, VCO is classified by noted biochemists and medical researchers as a functional food.

Soon after, every producer was adopting the term virgin from olive oil, copying its nuances and definitions and claiming their oil extra, premium or cold-press in the absence of a definitive standard for a natural kind of coconut oil.

With the country's reputation as the world's major supplier of coconut oil at stake, the government and industry deemed it vital to apply a quality standard for VCO, which possesses essential health properties uncompromised by extraction methods.

Extra virgin

Dermatologist Vermen Verallo-Rowell, who has spent a decade of research on the coconut, resolved the heat issue of virgin quality in her recently launched book "Rx: Coconuts." She noted that olive and coconut oils differ in chemistry and manner of extraction, such that the term "extra virgin" is applicable only to olive oil.

The doctor clarifies that olive oil, a heat-sensitive monounsaturate, needs to be cold-pressed with little or no heat to measure the degree of its delicate virgin state while coconut oil, a stable saturate, needs an amount of heat to lower a high moisture content that causes rancidity in order to ensure virgin quality.

Vitamin E loss

Rowell says that although vitamin E may be lost to heat, "it is a small price to pay, and is compensated by the many other health benefits from virgin coconut oil. The removal of vitamin E does not reduce the effect of VCO in its protection of cells, and possibly against cancer."

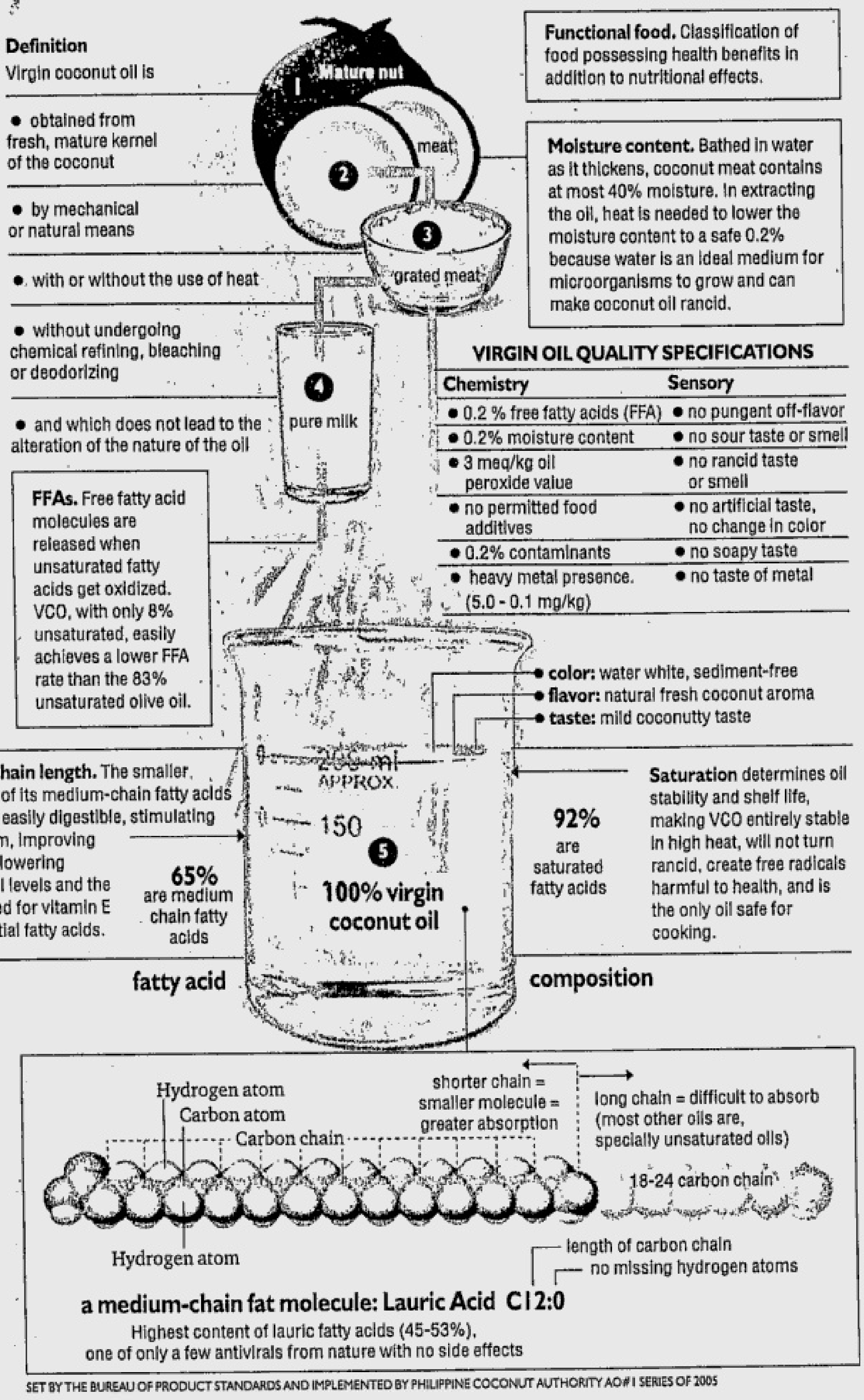
This was the contentious issue in the series of technical reviews and nationwide public consultations conducted by government scientists and private stakeholders before arriving at the PNS for VCO.

No less than the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) and the fledgling Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines (VCO Philippines) pooled their resources to come up with the science-based quality reference for all producers and consumers here and abroad.

With the PNS for VCO to be implemented and monitored jointly by PCA and VCO Philippines, consumers can now afford to be discerning in their choice of the right virgin oil according to one's needs. They deserve no less, if not higher than the quality benchmarks that makes coconut oil virgin.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD

What makes coconut oil virgin



Definition
Virgin coconut oil is

- obtained from fresh, mature kernel of the coconut
- by mechanical or natural means
- with or without the use of heat
- without undergoing chemical refining, bleaching or deodorizing
- and which does not lead to the alteration of the nature of the oil

Functional food. Classification of food possessing health benefits in addition to nutritional effects.

Moisture content. Bathed in water as it thickens, coconut meat contains at most 40% moisture. In extracting the oil, heat is needed to lower the moisture content to a safe 0.2% because water is an ideal medium for microorganisms to grow and can make coconut oil rancid.

FFAs. Free fatty acid molecules are released when unsaturated fatty acids get oxidized. VCO, with only 8% unsaturated, easily achieves a lower FFA rate than the 83% unsaturated olive oil.

VIRGIN OIL QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS

Chemistry	Sensory
0.2 % free fatty acids (FFA)	no pungent off-flavor
0.2% moisture content	no sour taste or smell
3 meq/kg oil peroxide value	no rancid taste or smell
no permitted food additives	no artificial taste, no change in color
0.2% contaminants	no soapy taste
heavy metal presence. (5.0 - 0.1 mg/kg)	no taste of metal

- **color:** water white, sediment-free
- **flavor:** natural fresh coconut aroma
- **taste:** mild coconutty taste

fatty acid

Medium chain length. The smaller, molecules of its medium-chain fatty acids make VCO easily digestible, stimulating metabolism, improving digestion, lowering cholesterol levels and the body's need for vitamin E and essential fatty acids.

65% are medium chain fatty acids

composition

92% are saturated fatty acids

Saturation determines oil stability and shelf life, making VCO entirely stable in high heat, will not turn rancid, create free radicals harmful to health, and is the only oil safe for cooking.

shorter chain = smaller molecule = greater absorption

long chain = difficult to absorb (most other oils are, specially unsaturated oils)

length of carbon chain
no missing hydrogen atoms

a medium-chain fat molecule: Lauric Acid C12:0
Highest content of lauric fatty acids (45-53%), one of only a few antivirals from nature with no side effects

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Scientists map rice genome

LONDON—SCIENTISTS CLAIMED a major breakthrough in the drive to produce rice more cheaply and efficiently, saying they had completed the first map of the cereal's genome, or genetic code.

That should allow an increase in rice yields, potentially benefiting billions of people who rely on the crop as their main food source.

"This is a breakthrough of inestimable significance, not only for science and agriculture but also for all those people who depend on rice as their primary dietary staple," said Joachim Messing, one of the scientists involved in the project.

Important genes

Researchers from 10 countries worked together to identify all 37,544 genes in rice and establish the position of each gene on rice's 12 chromosomes. They said they had identified some particularly important genes which might increase yield and productivity.

Private companies Monsanto and Syngenta, among others, had previously produced partial sequences which led to genetic modification of rice but had not been able to draw up a full model. The two companies gave their draft sequences to scientists from the International Rice Genome Sequencing Project (IRGSP), a public consortium which finished the job.

"The genetic map will greatly speed the hunt for genes that increase yield, protect against disease and pests or provide drought-resistance in rice and other cereal crops," said Robin Buell, the IRGSP's lead investigator.

The IRGSP says the implications are enormous because rice is so essential to so many people. According to the United Nations, rice supplies 20 percent of the world's dietary energy supply. In Asia, more than two billion people obtain 60 percent to 70 percent of their calories from rice or rice-derived products.

Consumption trends suggest that 4.6 billion people will be reliant on it by 2025. *Reuters*

Ovarian, cervical cancers killing thousands of Filipino women

By Tessa R. Salazar

OVARIAN CANCER RANKS FIFTH among cancers affecting women in the Philippines. The risk of contracting it increases steeply after the age of 40.

Projections in the 2005 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates say that there will be more than 3,283 new cases of ovarian cancer this year An estimated 1,918 women with ovarian cancer will die this year.

According to the Cancer Facts and Estimates, there is a lack of specific cause of ovarian cancer. Some of the factors suspected of increasing the risk are having no children, menstrual irregularities, and history of breast or endometrial cancer. There could be a hereditary predisposition in some women.

Dr. Genara Manuel Limson, a gynecologic oncologist, noted that while ovarian cancer is not as prevalent as cervical cancer, it is frequently diagnosed late because it has no "precursor lesion."

Ovarian cancers are usually detected as an abdominal mass during a pelvic examination. Experts recommend an annual pelvic examination starting at age 40 to detect early ovarian cancer. Surgery can be curative in cases of early ovarian cancer.

Ranks 2nd

Cervical cancer is easier to detect than ovarian cancer, but it is the second most common cancer site among Filipino women, next only to breast cancer.

Limson said cervical cancer has several "pre-invasive" stages, leaving a doctor plenty of time to diagnose and treat it.

According to the Cancer Facts and Estimates, there will be more than 7,000 new cases of cervical cancer this year in the country. An estimated 3,807 patients with cervical cancer will die this year.

In the Philippines, the incidence of cervical cancer increases dramatically after the age of 35.

Limson noted that more than two-thirds of cervical cancer cases in the Philippines is diagnosed late, which is why the country has a very low five-year survival rate of 51.7 percent.

In other countries, the survival rate is about 85 percent.

Limson said the country does not have an organized screening program for cervical cancer. She pointed out that a simple pap smear could reduce the incidence rate by 90 percent.

The risk factors for cervical cancers are having multiple sex partners, early sexual intercourse and early pregnancy. The disease has been associated with the human papyloma virus.

The Philippine Cancer Society offers free checkups every Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at 310 San Rafael Street, San Miguel, Manila. Its hotline is 734-2131.

The PCS has nine warning signs of cancer, summarized in the acronym "Caution Us": Change in bowel or bladder habits; A sore that does not heal; Unusual bleeding or discharge; Thickening or lump in the breast or elsewhere; Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing; Obvious change in warts or moles; Nagging cough or hoarseness; Unexplained anemia; Sudden unexplained weight loss.

Math news

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

INTERESTING EVENTS have been happening in the math world. First, the good news. Our Philippine team had its best performance in the International Math Olympiad (IMO) in many years. This year's IMO was held in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, from July 8 to 19. Three of our team members were given honorable mention, and all are management engineering freshmen at the Ateneo de Manila University: John Garret C. Go, Jon Henri Ma and Charles William O. Ang.

The other members of the team are Elvis T. Chua (Ateneo de Manila University, Gian Jeffson D. Chua (UNO High School), and Daniel Andrew O. Tan (Grace Christian High School). Head coach Dr. Jose Marasigan and assistant coach Richard Eden accompanied the students to the IMO. Congratulations! For details, go to www.imo2005.org.

E-tutoring

Our next news comes from my friend Dr. Jerry Becker of Southern Illinois University, who tells us that the newest form of outsourcing from India is tutoring US students in math. India's (and our) outsourcing industry tends to focus on customer or telecom service, but now another lucrative avenue has opened. Indian students work part time, log on at night and help their American counterparts half a world away. Currently around a dozen Indian firms are doing e-tutoring. The largest firm is Educomp Datamatics, where 20 staff members teach math to 800 Grade 6 to Grade 12 students, with projections of reaching 2,000 by year end. The company charges $20 to $40 an hour, depending on the grade level.

The US student and his Indian tutor log on in real time. Each session lasts from 30 minutes to one hour, and the tutors teach by chatting or through interactive software that is downloaded from the company website. The tutor prepares an individually tailored lesson plan based on the student's needs. Both tutor and student have the same white boards on their screens, and with a stylus, the tutor can correct mistakes immediately.

The Philippines is proud of its outsourcing industry, but unless our students hone their math skills, we will always remain potential customers instead of suppliers. For more information, read Jay Shankar's article at The Middle East Times, Aug. 29, 2005 at www.metimes.com/articles/normal.php?StoryID=20050829-044023-2319r%20

Math teachers confab

Lastly, the Philippine Council of Mathematics Teacher Educators (Mathted) Inc. will be holding its fifth biennial conference with the theme "Preparing the Mathematics Teachers of Tomorrow" on Oct. 21 and 22 at the Philippine Normal University in Manila. All present and past members, particularly math teachers and trainors, are invited.

The conference, endorsed by the Commission on Higher Education, will feature talks and presentations focused on the new CHEd preservice teacher education curriculum and research papers on math teaching and learning. Please preregister so you can be assured of conference materials and meals. Early bird registration deadline is Sept. 30. Accommodations are available in PNU at reasonable rates. Contact Dr. Auxencia Limjap at 5244611 local 158, e-mail ching_limjap@yahoo.com or limjapa@dlsu.edu.ph or Dr. Evangeline Golla at 3026661. You may also e-mail the Mathted secretary mathted1996@yahoo.com. Major sponsors and partners are the DOST Science Education Institute and Casio Philippines.

Public poorly informed about hepatitis B

By Cesar D. Mangawang

THE LEVEL OF awareness and understanding of chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection was very low in most countries in Asia Pacific, according to a media research conducted in the region in early 2005.

The Philippines is among the countries where the public is poorly informed about HBV, its prevention and complications.

Because there is a significant unmet need for greater public awareness of HBV, 18 medical experts from 14 countries in Asia Pacific signified their commitment to address the issue. They also vowed to strengthen the fight against hepatitis B, one of the region's most threatening chronic diseases, through a new initiative.

Of the approximately 400 million HBV infections worldwide, about 75 percent are found in Asia. China has the greatest burden of hepatitis B and liver cancer in the world, with over one-third of the world's total estimated hepatitis B carriers.

Regional initiative

The existence of the Advancing the Clinical Treatment of Hepatitis B Virus (ACT-HBV) Asia-Pacific Initiative was made known at the Asia Pacific Association of the Study of the Liver (APASL) conference held recently in Bali, Indonesia.

Created to meet the information needs of physicians and others involved in taking care of patients who are infected with hepatitis B or who are at risk for infection, the ACT-HBV Initiative was introduced last year in the United States.

The ACT-HBV Asia-Pacific Initiative is led by a steering committee chaired by Prof. Yun-Fan Liaw of Taiwan. Its mission is to improve patients' quality of care and outcomes by educating healthcare providers on the most current information pertaining to HBV.

DR. Sollano

Said Professor Liaw: "The detection and treatment of HBV is especially critical in this region. Efforts to effectively prevent diagnose and treat hepatitis B are critical to preventing serious complications, including cirrhosis and liver cancer. Sustained viral suppression is the key to the reduction or prevention of hepatic injury and disease progression."

Among its members are professors Stephen A. Locarnini of Australia, Hui Zhuang, Jidong Jia and Guangbi Yao of China, Nancy Wai-Lee Leung of Hong Kong, Shiv K. Sarin of India and Masao Omata of Japan. Also included are professors Dong-Jin Suh and Seung-Kew Yoon of Korea, Dr. Lakshumanan Sanker Velayudham of Malaysia, professors S. M. Wasim Jafri of Pakistan and Jose D. Sollano of the Philippines, Dr. Richard Guan of Singapore, professors Ting-TSung Chang of Taiwan, Varocha Mahachai of Thailand and Pham Hoang Phiet of Vietnam.

The steering committee members provide direction for educational programs targeted to physicians and other healthcare providers in Asia Pacific. They also oversee local country-specific chapters of ACT-HBV in order to address specific educational and informational needs of each country.

Public awareness drive

Public education and awareness efforts will be undertaken in Asia Pacific. Campaign efforts will focus on increasing public understanding of how HBV is transmitted, who is at risk of contracting the virus, the importance of vaccination, the complications of viral replication and what people should do to prevent or treat chronic hepatitis B infection and the importance of seeking timely, appropriate treatment.

"The ACT for HBV campaign will be an ongoing effort. By discussing the impact of hepatitis B on patients and their communities, we hope to increase the level of understanding of the disease and encourage a proactive approach to combating it," commented Prof. Liaw.

The public awareness campaign will be rolled out across the region at the national level. Each country will develop and execute activities specific to their needs.

In Bali, the expert group introduced a symbolic wristband movement where those closely involved with hepatitis B will wear a blue wristband to signify that the fight against hepatitis B has commenced.

RP next host

The Philippines will host the APASL conference next year. The conference will be held

Said Professor Sollano: "First of all, we are proud to have a chance to host the biggest conference of liver specialists in the Asia Pacific region. Secondly, this is to show the world we can host the APASL conference. Lastly, we can have the local doctors listen to the liver specialists and experts."

Sollano is the president of the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver. His special interests include viral hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma, inflammatory bowel disease and therapeutic endoscopy in portal hypertension, liver tuberculosis and other biliopancreatic diseases.

Excessive drinking can shorten life span

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

TALLINN, ESTONIA—I THOUGHT FILIPINOS drank a little bit too much. But now I realize we're relatively exerting more restraint and are a lot more sober than people residing in the Baltic cities such as this picturesque capital of Estonia.

"Blame it on the cold weather," said our guide.

Winter here can last six months and the nights are long, making it conducive to drink alcohol. Our guide said Estonian men spend a lot of time on weekends fishing, not so much to catch salmon, but more as an excuse to be with their drinking buddies at sea or somewhere. On their way home, they pass by the market to buy some fish to give to their wives.

Excessive alcohol intake is increasingly becoming a major health concern in central and eastern Europe, causing a high incidence of premature deaths compared to other causes such as accidents, infections, lung and heart diseases. For a while, all of the republics in the European part of the former Soviet Union, which included Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, experienced marked improvements in life expectancy after an anti-alcohol campaign in 1985. This translated to marked reduction in traditionally extremely high rates of alcohol-related deaths.

But with the fall of the Soviet Union came also the fall of all restraints against excessive alcohol intake. Life expectancy in the Baltic Republics has fallen since 1989, coinciding with the removal, or failure to enforce, the controls on alcohol imports and production.

Medical researches in Russia, which has experienced similar changes, have confirmed the importance of alcohol as a causative factor in this shortened life span.

Specific parameter

One measure of alcohol-related mortality is the rate of chronic liver diseases such as cirrhosis. This is a relatively more specific parameter compared with other alcohol-related causes of deaths such as increased proneness to accidents and heart failure. It gives us an idea of the scale of the alcohol problem in these cold countries.

Between 1990 and 1995, death rates from chronic liver diseases and cirrhosis doubled in Estonia and Latvia and increased by 50 percent in Lithuania, according to a study by Professors Martin McKee and Sirje Vaask of the Estonian Public Health Department. These rates are almost double that in other European countries.

The two experts recommended effective policy responses, including informing the public on allowable quantities of alcohol intake and the list of complications linked to excessive alcohol intake.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of similar information in this region, including the Philippines. Official statistics on consumption are often derived from sales data. However, this is of limited value especially in countries where there is extensive unregistered production and significant smuggling of alcohol. In the Baltic countries, this can be as much as 45 percent to 50 percent.

The study of McKee and Vaask showed that approximately half the men and one in six women in the Baltic states reported consuming alcohol at least weekly. Age and income were the strongest and most consistent correlates of the likelihood of consuming alcohol weekly. Ethnic differences were observed only in Estonia.

Our health authorities can learn something from the Baltic experience; they should conduct surveys to identify sectors of the population that drink excessively. This could indicate the socioeconomic determinants of drinking in our country. Knowing this information can help authorities come up with strategies to address the alcoholism problem.

Thank God for orthodontists

HENRY COULD NOT MANAGE A SMILE, ONLY a painfully contorted grimace. He had thick pursed lips, as misshapen as the teeth in his gums, clinically known as malocclusion, creating a rabbit-like appearance. Since his growing years, his unsightly smile not only stunted his emotional growth, but also had such a negative impact on his personality, his self-esteem and his social life.

When his mother heard that an orthodontist could remedy her son's condition, she immediately brought him to one who was highly recommended by her friends. The orthodontist went to work on the poor boy, put him on corrective braces and on a strict regimen of oral hygiene and regular visits to the clinic for two years.

Awesome smile

Then one day, when the orthodontist took off the braces and thrust a mirror into his hands, the young man broke into a smile. This was the first time his mother saw such an awesome, beautiful smile. Had it not been for the orthodontist's work, she would have a troubled and insecure teenager for life. Imagine what would have happened to this teenager had there been no orthodontist!

"He would have been psychologically and physically maimed for life," says Dr. Renato T. Africa, former president of the Association of Philippine Orthodontists (APO) and a diplomate of the Philippine Board of Orthodontics (PBO). "He would not have developed into the self-confident, fun and outgoing person that he eventually became. After orthodontic treatment, he was a totally changed person," Dr. Africa adds.

"Thank God for orthodontists"—that would be the cry of gratitude of countless youngsters given a second chance to look their best. Thank God, too, for the existence of the Association of Philippine Orthodontists (APO), a group of committed professional specialists who since the 1980s have treated both children and adults alike, with dental problems affecting their smiles.

DR. Macapanpan

It was in September 1980, exactly 25 years ago that this association came into existence. It was through the efforts of Dr. Luz C. Macapanpan who rallied all the orthodontists in the country at that time, to form an orthodontic study club, which later evolved into what the APO is today—a diverse group of orthodontists, practicing all over the Philippines, committed to excellence in the orthodontic treatment of their patients and the continuing education of its members.

The Philippine Board of Orthodontists (PBO) was also inaugurated that same time to serve as the accrediting arm of the APO. Precisely during the early '80s that there was still no avenue to learn the science of Orthodontics except in foreign universities, it was the PBO that set the limits and qualifications of the true orthodontic specialists. Those that trained under preceptorship programs could take the PBO qualifying exams to see whether they possessed the minimal skills needed to practice good orthodontics.

Accreditation

To date, the University of the Philippines Graduate Program in Orthodontics offers the best opportunity to become an orthodontist locally. This is because it has passed the accreditation requirements set by the PBO. Other university-based programs may soon be accredited.

This was the vision of the late Dr. Macapanpan, deemed the mother of Philippine orthodontics, as she worked tirelessly to promote orthodontics as a distinct specialty of dentistry in Manila after she had graduated with a master of science in orthodontics from the University of Illinois.

Although she passed away two years ago, her legacy continues to live on, in the many students who passed through her tutelage and guidance and are now giving back to the profession by becoming teachers themselves, or simply by doing good orthodontics. Thus, today, more people have a better understanding of what orthodontics is all about.

There is no more reason a young man like Henry with a dental deformity should go through life esthetically challenged and emotionally maimed.

To learn more about the Association of Philippine Orthodontists (APO), visit their website at www.apo.com.ph.

ASK THE DENTIST

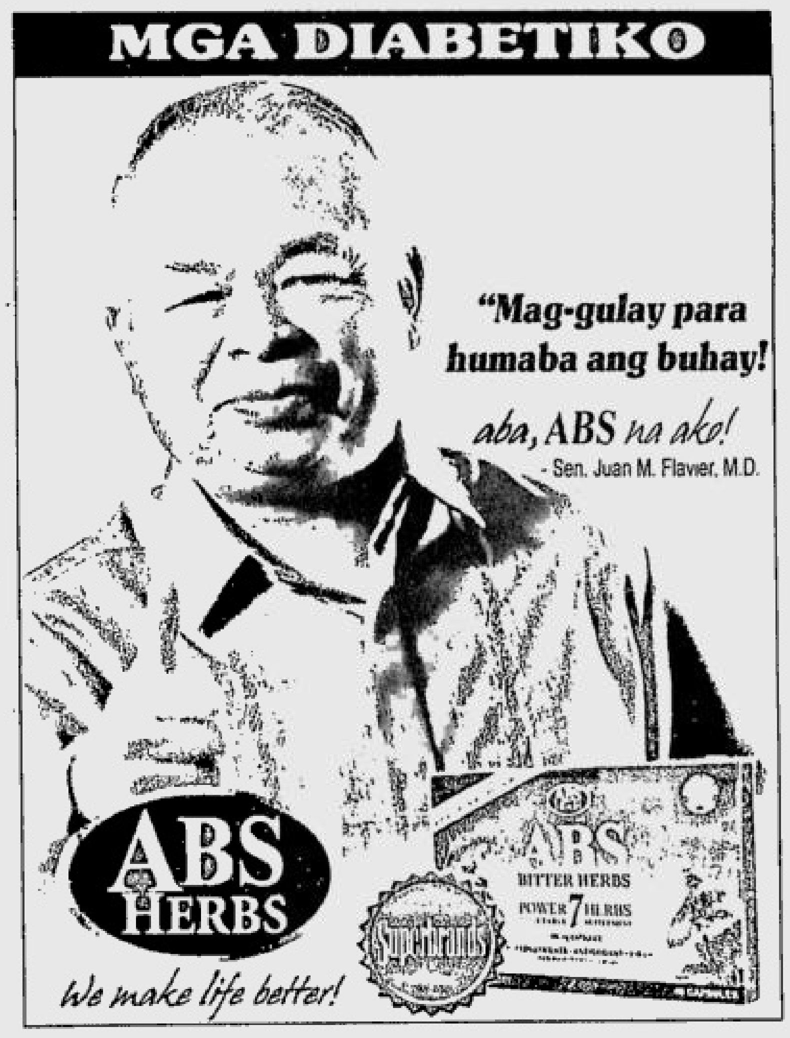
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Large filling

I DIDN'T TAKE CARE OF MY TEETH when I was growing up. Now only one-third is left of one tooth. I was surprised that my dentist put a large filling instead of a crown. Will the filling last?—Mikey P.

Normally, a dentist puts a crown if the tooth only has more filling than tooth structure. But if your dentist wanted to be conservative then you could give the large filling a chance. A cement is put under the large filling to bond the filling and the remaining tooth structure. If despite these efforts the filling starts to chip or crack, then it would be best to crown the tooth.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.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Why you need to know more about LDL Cholesterol

There are actually two types of cholesterol - the good and the bad. Your body produces these types of cholesterol and your genes determine how much should be made and how fast it is removed from the blood. However, your genes may lean towards producing more cholesterol than what your body really needs. This may mean that you might actually have a higher level of bad cholesterol, also known as low-density lipoprotein (LDL), in your system. Ingestion of cholesterol-rich, fatty foods like steaks, eggs, lamb chops, etc., may also increase your bad cholesterol level.

This greater than necessary amount of bad cholesterol in your system may very well lead to atherosclerosis or the narrowing of blood vessels due to plaque formation. You may already be at risk of heart disease.

How does this situation lead to heart disease and possibly death? High levels of bad cholesterol, hypertension, chemical irritants from tobacco smoke, inadequate amounts of oxygen, turbulent blood flow and other factors cause an initial lesion which begins plaque development. Like a vicious cycle, this situation leads to an increased accumulation of bad cholesterol in the lesion. This accumulated amount is oxidized and transformed into macrophages which in turn oxidize more bad cholesterol. Plaque continues to increase in size incorporating additional lipids, macrophages and smooth muscle cells. Think of it as a scab that continues to grow thicker and thicker, making the blood vessel narrower and narrower.

This results in blood vessel constriction and reduced blood flow. This occurs over an extended period and you remain unaware because your body tries to compensate by finding alternate routes for blood to flow Slowly growing plaque can completely block a vessel and you won't feel a thing.

The first thing you need to do is have your bad cholesterol level checked by a health professional because having too much of it poses a major risk for coronary heart disease. This should prompt you to initiate a lifestyle change or even therapy.

There are certain factors that influence the amount of bad cholesterol in your body and these include diet, weight, physical activity (or inactivity), age and gender, alcohol intake, smoking, stress levels and heredity

You can't do anything about age and gender but you can quit smoking and taking in excessive alcohol, start exercising, eat healthier food, beg off the lechon and chicharon and avoid stressful situations.

Is a lifestyle change enough? No. Heredity plays too big a part in the bad cholesterol situation and so, if three months of a low-saturated fat, low cholesterol diet coupled with increased physical activity and weight loss do not result in the desired cholesterol level, drug therapy may be necessary.

Drug therapy for elevated LDL cholesterol levels normally involves statins. Pharmaceutical firm Schering-Plough has recently expanded the horizon of treatment options that focus on cholesterol in the intestinal tract. A 10mg dose of Ezetimibe combined with a 10mg statin dose equals the effectiveness of that same statin at a dosage of 80mg. The ezetimibe-statin combination will result in a lowering of LDL levels equal to the maximum tolerable dose of a statin without posing any threats to the liver. To simplify matters further, Schering-Plough has introduced a 2-in-1 drug with Ezetimibe and simvastatin, one of the most effective statins.

It is time for you to go to your doctor and find out just what your cholesterol situation is. If you don't, you may very well have to visit the hospital riding in a big, white ambulance right after you suffer either a heart attack or a stroke.

A public service message from Schering-Plough

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Makati I District Vacant Position - Teacher I OSEC-DECSB-TCHR I- 40376 Qualifications:BEED Graduate Teacher's Exam-eligible

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #7611 Caag Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on September 24, 2005 at 9:00 AM. including all items pawned up to April 2005 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE VICTOR E. BALOTA IS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY AND AMONG HIS HEIRS PER DOC. NO. 96 PAGE NO. 20 BOOK NO. XIX SERIES 2005 OF NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. PEPITO G. PO OF MAKATI CITY METRO MANILA (PDI SEPT. 3,10 & 17, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARNULFO B. AURELLANO has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 341, Page No. 69, Book No. 1, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Agapito F. Fajardo, Jr. of Quezon City. (PDI-Sept. 3, 10, & 17 2005)

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12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
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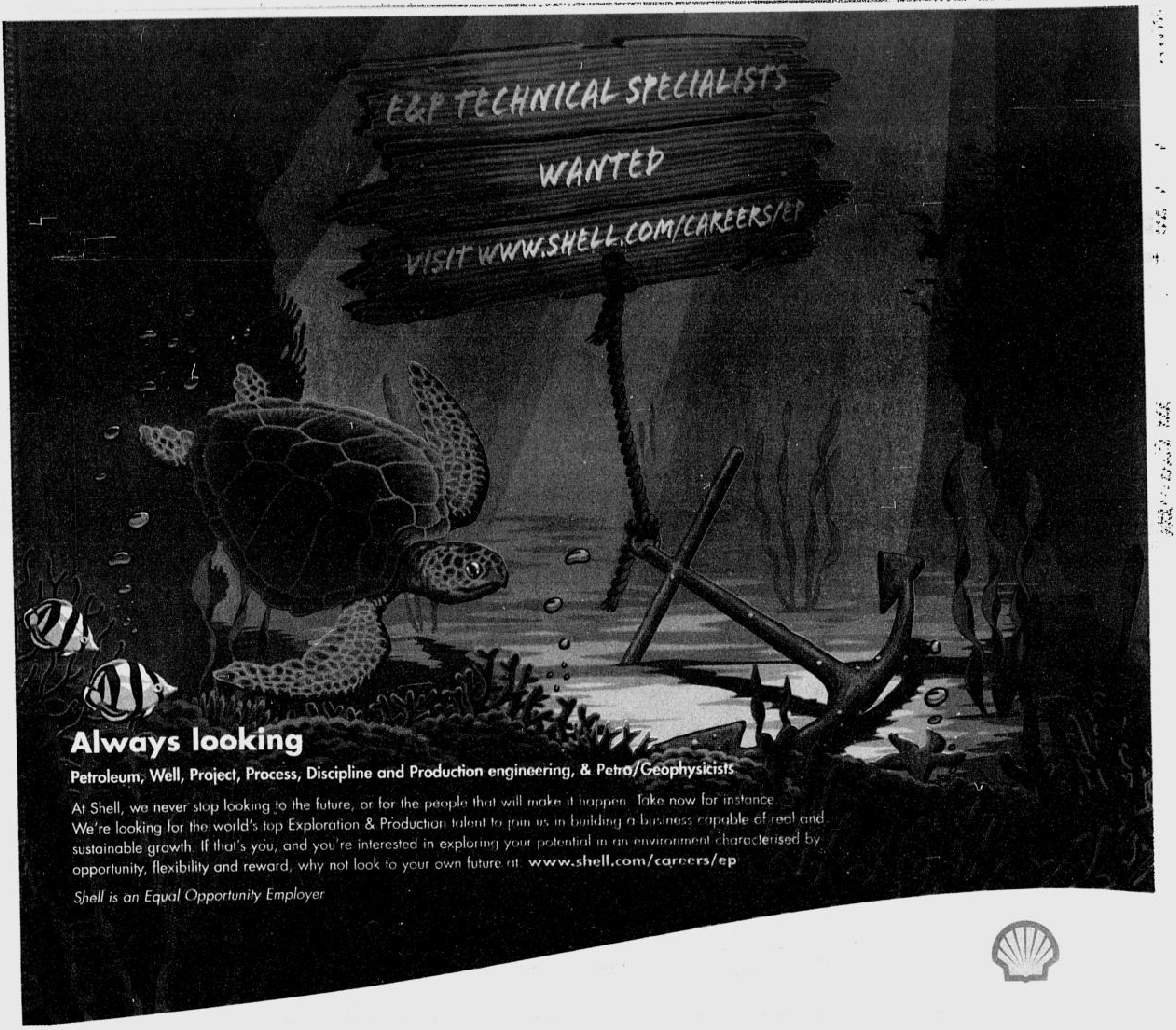

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Christmas lifestyle expo set

COME DEC. 2-4, A Christmas lifestyle event is going to unfold at the World Trade Center area in Pasay City. Dubbed "Christmas Lifestyle Expo," the show features an exciting and dazzling array of products that would catch the fancy of local and foreign visitors as well as the Filipino Overseas Workers, and just about everyone else who will converge at the expo to shop for items, some not usually found in department stores.

The Christmas Lifestyle Expo is organized by L.A. Ducut and Company, Inc., a team of exhibit professionals with a combined 40 years of experience in the exhibition industry. Notable projects include the Sinulog Export Overruns and Bazaar, and the recently concluded and highly successful 13th Construction Show Cebu that featured the latest construction technology and companies based in the Southern Philippines. L.A. Ducut and Company, Inc. has handled this important trade show for the last 13 years, a testament to their creative expertise and efficient handling.

The Christmas Lifestyle Expo in cooperation with the Lifestyle Network will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, Sen. Gil Puyat Extension, Pasay City, from Dec. 2-4. Sponsors include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, Sign Media, and 97.9 Manila Home Radio.

For details and other inquiries, contact Benjie A. Ducut or Lito A. Ramos at L.A. Ducut & Company, Inc. at 873-8202, 873-1198, 873-8876, (0917) 838-2183; (0916)697-3207 or (0921) 455-2989 or (0927) 521-7760. Or email lifestyleexpo@laducut.com or visit www.christmaslifestyleexpo.com.

PRE-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(LEYECO II)
Real St., Sagkahan, Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 321-4292, 321-2809, 321-3710

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II) invites suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of the following items:

1.) 57 units Capacitors, 100 KVAR, Double Bushing, 7620 Volts 95 KV BIL, 60 HZ
2.) 9 units Oil Vacuum Switch, 15KV, 3Phase, 200A, Capacitive Current Switch
3.) 9 units Capacitor Timer, Double Contact
4.) 9 units Capacitor Hanger, Pole Mounted, Maximum of 12 Capacitors, Galvanized.

A Pre-qualification conference will be held on September 30, 2005 at LEYECO II office, 11:00 o'clock in the morning. The following documents have to be presented during the conference, to wit:

1.) Letter of Intent and Company Profile
2.) Original or Certified True Copy of Suppliers' License and Accreditation
3.) Original or Certified True Copy of Business Permit
4.) Original or Certified True Copy of SEC Registration
5.) Original or Certified True Copy of latest Financial Statement
6.) Original or Certified True Copy of latest Income Tax Return

Bidding documents and technical specifications shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders. Time and venue of Opening of Bids shall be discussed during the Pre-bidding conference. Sealed offers must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid offered.

LEYECO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality thereof and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the electric cooperative. The decision of the electric cooperative is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. BARTOLOME P. COBACHA**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project: *Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)*
Loan No.: *Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI*
Description of Works:
Construction and Development of (A) Plaza Mexico and Escolta Ferry Stations; (B) Guadalupe and Valenzuela Ferry Stations; and (C) Sta. Ana Ferry Station.

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for (A) Plaza Mexico and Escolta Ferry Stations (Contract No. EPA-LPP-027); (B) Guadalupe and Valenzuela Ferry Stations (Contract No. EPA-LPP-028); and (C) Sta. Ana Ferry Station (Contract No. EPA-LPP-029).
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	A. Const. and Devt. of (1) Plaza Mexico and (2) Escolta Ferry Stations	B. Const. and Devt. of (1) Guadalupe and (2) Valenzuela Ferry Stations	C. Construction and Development of Sta. Ana Ferry Station
Contract No.	EPA-LPP-027	EPA-LPP-028	EPA-LPP-029
Area	395.32 sq.m.	442.32 sq.m.	284.58 sq.m.
Location	(1) Plaza Mexico, Intramuros, Manila; (2) Muelle Del Banco Linear Park, Escolta, Mla.	(1) J.P. Rizal St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati; (2) Bonifacio St., Brgy. Valenzuela, Makati	Sta. Ana Linear Park Brgy. Punta, Manila
Contract Duration	120 Calendar Days	120 Calendar Days	120 Calendar Days
Project Description	Construction and development of Plaza Mexico and Escolta Ferry Stations which includes the following items of work: construction of temporary facilities; earthworks; civil and works, steel works, architectural works; roofing works; sanitary/plumbing works and electrical works	Construction and development of Guadalupe and Valenzuela Ferry Stations which includes the following items of work construction of temporary facilities; earthworks, civil works, steel works, architectural works; roofing works; sanitary/plumbing works and electrical works	Construction and development of Sta. Ana Ferry Station which includes the following items of work: construction of temporary facilities, earthworks, civil works; steel works, architectural works, roofing sanitary/plumbing works, revetment works and electrical works

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity			Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 12,500.00			Fr. 24-30 Sept. 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 AM	PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents.			Fr. 24-30 Sept. 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 AM	PPRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
Pre-Bid Conference		Contract Package A	4 Oct. 2005	8:00 AM	PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	
		Contract Package B	4 Oct. 2005	2:00 PM		
		Contract Package C	5 Oct. 2005	8:00 AM		
Site Inspection	Contract A	Plaza Mexico Ferry Station	4 Oct. 2005	2:00 PM	Plaza Mexico, Intramuros Manila	
		Escolta Ferry Station			Muelle Del Banco Linear Park, Escolta, Manila	
	Contract B	Guadalupe Ferry Station	4 Oct. 2005	8:00 AM	J.P. Rizal St., Guadalupe Nuovo, Makati City	
		Valenzuela Ferry Station			Bonifacio St., Brgy. Valenzuela City	
	Contract C	Sta. Ana Ferry Station	5 Oct. 2005	2:00 PM	Sta. Ana Linear Park, Brgy. Punta, Manila	
Deadline for Submission of Bids		Contract Package A	17 Oct. 2005	8:00 AM	PPRC (same address as above)	Late bids shall not be accepted
		Contract Package B	17 Oct. 2005	1:00 PM	PPRC (same address as above)	Late bids shall not be accepted
		Contract Package C	18 Oct. 2005	8:00 AM	PPRC (same address as above)	Late bids shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids		Contract Package A	17 Oct. 2005	8:00 AM	PPRC (same address as above)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders
		Contract Package B	17 Oct. 2005	1:00 PM	PPRC (sames address as above	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders
		Contract Package C	18 Oct. 2005	8:00 AM	PPRC (same address as above)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

1. The DOTC shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
2. Bidding (Eligibility Check / Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in "*Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans*".
3. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) Bingle H. B. Gutierrez
Executive Director, PRRC

(Sgd.) Agustin R. Bengzon
Undersecretary, DOTC
Chairperson, Pasig River Ferry Service Project

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446 • Email Address: prrc@in-rays.com • Fax No. 926-6444

(PDI – September 17, 2005)

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With deepest sorrow,
we announce the passing of our
Senior Partner

HAYDEE B. YORAC

on September 12, 2005.

Atty. Yorac is survived by her mother Josefa, her sisters Evelyn, Stella, Margot, Carmen and Amy and her brother Joey.

Her remains will lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City from Sunday, September 18, 2005 until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 21, 2005.

Thereafter, her remains shall be at the UP Chapel, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the UP Chapel.

(Please omit flowers.)

We request her friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

YORAC ARROYO CHUA CAEDO & CORONEL LAW FIRM

REV. FR. NICASIO LOQUIANO LESONDRA

Colonel O-5532 (Chaplain Service) Armed Forces of the Philippines

Former Chief Chaplain, Philippine Army

Born on December 14, 1934 in Lambunao, Iloilo
Died on September 14, 2005 at St. Paul's Hospital, Iloilo City

PARENTS: **CANUTO L. LESONDRA** (†) and **PATROCENIA L. LOQUIANO** (†)
BROTHERS & SISTER: **ANDRES L. LESONDRA** and **Ruperta L. Lavilla, LOURDES L. LESONDRA** and **Deputy Director General Edmundo L. Larroza, PNP (Ret). Chief Superintendent ROMEO L. LESONDRA PNP (Ret)** and **Marylou S. Leyritana**; NEPHEWS & NIECES: **MARICEL, JOSIE & Rex, RANDY, IAN & Mary Ann Lesondra, ERIC & Maricar, LANIE** and **Michael, ERWIN Larroza, RAINIER, RONALD & Ann Lesondra**; GRANDCHILDREN: **Jo-ed, Bea & TJ, Tanni & Meeko.**

His body lies in state at the Chapel of St. John Mary Vianney Archdiocesan Center, Seminario St., Jaro, Iloilo City and will be transferred to St. Nicholas de Tolentino Parish Church in Lambunao, Iloilo at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of September 19, 2005.

Interment will take place at the Lambunao, Iloilo Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on September 21, 2005.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

JUDGE MANUEL A. ROMAN, SR.

(Retired RTC Judge Pinamalayan,
Oriental Mindoro of Lopez, Quezon)

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 15, 2005 at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Azon**;

Children – **Malou & Jun, Baby & Mario** (†), **Boy & Gohlee, Butchie & Boying, Wowow & Freddie, Vicvic, Lenlen & Pete, Bobot, Boyet & Carmi** and **Donoy**

Grandchildren – **Joanne, Boyet & AM, Jianne, Mikee, Mai-mai, Olive, Joemar, Karl, Michelle, Ayyan, Eazy, Ejo, Angelica, Diane, Rico, Bombo, Pocholo, PJ, Joper** and **Hugo**

Brothers and Sisters – **Meding** (†) & **Orto** (†), **Tony & Racquel, Solon & Baby** and **Rosie & Romy**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Blk. 48 Lot 43 Lagro Subdivision, Quezon City and will be brought home in Lopez, Quezon in the morning of Monday, September 19th.

Interment will be announced later:

"For God
so loved the
world, that
He gave
His only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him shall
not perish
but have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

Message of Thanks

We,
the bereaved family and relatives of

ARTURO M. DEL ROSARIO, SR.

AUGUST 9, 1922 - AUGUST 29, 2005

who peacefully joined
our Creator at the age of 83
express our sincerest appreciation to all our friends who
spent precious time with us, sent flowers, mass cards,
messages of sympathy, donated to the Sacred Heart Chapel
and showed in many ways
their moral & spiritual support,
love & affection during our time of sorrow

THANK YOU

Daddy gave us so much to be thankful for.

Our Beloved

Consuelo L. Ibañez

December 28, 1917 – September 16, 2005

Peacefully joined her Creator,
her loving husband, Elpidio Sr. and only daughter, Frine.
She will be deeply missed by her children
Nonoy and Irene and Bing
and by her grandchildren Diego, Sebastian and Isabela

Her remains will lie in state at
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East
and will be laid to rest after the
10am Mass on Sunday, September 18, 2005

ANACORETA BALCORTA GUEVARRA

peacefully joined her Creator on September 12, 2005

Her loving husband Fernando (Randy) Guevarra, daughter Anafe, son Raymond, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be tomorrow, September 18, 2005 at 8:00 am at Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

OBITUARIES

Whoever finds his life will lose it,

and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

God saw you getting tired. When a cure was not to be.
So he wrapped his arms around you. And whispered "Come to Me."

OFELIA G. DURAN

*Our beloved Mom, **Bela**, peacefully joined her Creator and our Papa, **Manoling**, on Thursday, September 15, 2005.*

We, her loving children **Gerry**, **Toti**, **Jenet**, **Francis** and **Maita**; sister **Gigi**; brother **Gilly Boy**; brother-in-law **Nilo**; grandchildren, sons-in-law, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the St. Alphonsus Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Interment will be on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at Everest Hills Memorial Park, Muntinlupa City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28

SUSAN "SWANEEH" DEL CARMEN PASTOR

Asst. Vice President – Equitable PCI Bank

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 15, 2005 at the age of 49.

Her loving husband **Ray**; her son **Enzo**;
brothers & sisters **Raymond, Marite, Jophel & Kate**;
niece **Cheska**; mother-in-law **Gloria F. Pastor**;
brothers & sisters-in-law **Nonie & Gigi, Jenny, Pepoc & Marieson, Marites & Joey, Christy & Julius, Albert & Anabel, Benjie & Myla, KD**; nieces and nephews; uncles and aunts; and cousins request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at **ARLINGTON EAST The Garden Chapels,**
1354 C. Raymundo Ave. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
Brgy. San Miguel Pasig City

Interment will be on **Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at Heaven's Gate I, Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City** after the **8:00 a.m.** Mass at Arlington East The Garden Chapel.

CLASSIFIEDS

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : September 14, 2005
Loan No.: MIYAZAWA
Contract No.: Sp05.WCTP.Ve-0042

1. The ***National Power Corporation (NPC) has received a loan from the*** **Miyazawa Funds** for ***Wright – Calbayog Transmission Project*** and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract ***Design, Furnishing and Installing, Testing and Commissioning 138kV Wright – Calbayog Transmission Project.***
2. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)*** administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Design, Furnishing and Installing, Testing and Commissioning 138kV Wright – Calbayog Transmission Project
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department****, Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue, corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-2308.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting September 19, 2005 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundble fee of ***Fifty Thousand Pesos (PHP 50,000.00).***
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand US Dollars (US$275,000.00)

   The bid security must be included with the technical proposal

   Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on October 7, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on November 14, 2005 at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price propoposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for the project is **365 calendar days.**
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Commitee

(PDI – September 17, 2005)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

1. Local Area Network (LAN)
2. Utility Inventory Management System
3. Distribution Line Construction (Materials and Labor)

To be qualified, bidder must have fully compiled with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
   - a. Company Profile
   - b. Business Registration
   - c. Business Permit
   - d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   - f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements – September 30, 2005.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS**
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 23, 2005)

ALBAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ALECO invites qualified contractors to bid for the **supply, installation and commissioning of a 10 MVA Substation** inclusive of a two to five year deferred payment scheme.

Eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from the **ALECO** office starting **September 15, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,000.00.

Site inspection is on **September 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.** All prospective bidders shall be required to attend site inspection and shall be issued Certificate of Inspection for eligibility to bid. For purpose of clarifying some issues, a pre-bid conference will be on **September 23, 2005** at 2:00 p.m. at ALECO Boardroom.

Application for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by **ALECO** on or before **September 30, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

ALECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to ALECO.

JOSE MISAEL B. MORALEDA
Chairman, Technical PBAC-ALECO

(PDI - Sept. 14 & 17, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. #6, SAN LAZARO COMPOUND, RIZAL AVENUE,
STA. CRUZ, 1003, MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (632) 743-8301 LOCAL 1650-1652; Web address: www.doh.gov.ph

September 14, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. *The Department of Health (DOH), through the Government of the Philippines invites consulting firms to participate in the selection of Firms for the following. Bids receive in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.*

No.	PROJECT	ABC	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
1	Technical Assistance and Assessment Teams on Sentrong Sigla, Level 2 Standards (IFB-CS-GOP-2005-13 [1])	Php 2,000,000.00	Php 1,000.00
2	Client Satisfaction Study for DOH Health Regulation Agencies (IFB-CS-GOP-2005-14 [1])	Php 3,000,000.00	Php 1,000.00

2. The *DOH* now calls for the submission of *Letters of Intent (LOI)* from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the *above consulting service*. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before September 28, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the *address indicated below* and secure the Eligibility Documents there from. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished eligibility documents shall be on October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at *the COBAC Conference Room*. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The COBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted *LOIs* and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of *three (3) to seven (7)* consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are applicable experience (40%), qualification of personnel (40%) and current workload (20%).
4. *LOIs* must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below at *9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* on or before *September 28, 2005.*
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184 only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the eligibility documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The DOH shall evaluate bids using the *Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) with 60/40 weight in favor of technical.*
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the *COBAC Secretariat: Ms. Coney Liberan/Ms. Debbie Rabi* at the address given below from *10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*
7. The contracts shall be completed within a *maximum period of twelve (12) months.*
8. The *Department of Health* reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Contact Info:
Ms. Concepcion Liberan/Ms. Debbie A. Rabi, COBAC Secretariat
Address: 3/F Building 6, DOH, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No.: 743-8301 local 1650 - 1652
E-mail Address: csliberan@co.doh.gov.ph
Fax No.: 741-9775
Website: www.doh.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 24, 2005)

JOB Market ONLINE www.jobmarketonline.com

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building
Of Iloilo City/Iloilo Prov., Bais City and Sarangganl

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) No. C-04-04816 dated December 15, 2004, intends to apply the following amounts, to wit:

Project	Location	PCAB License	Contract Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1. RD. Bldg. Iloilo City/ Iloilo Province	City Proper, Iloilo City, Iloilo Prov.	Medium "A"	12 mos.	P 12,000,000.00
2. RD Bldg. Bais City	City Proper, Bais City Negros Oriental	Medium "A"	4 mos.	P 3,456,000.00
3. RD Bldg. Saranggani	Capitol Compound, Alabel, Saranggani	Medium "A"	4 mos.	P 3,456,000.00

The same being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of the above infrastructure projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

LRA now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building of Iloilo City/Iloilo Province, Bais City and Saranggani. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum requirements stated in the eligibility forms. Applications for the eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **October 12, 2005.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A or R.A. 9184, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who will be determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, on or before **October 3-6, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00) PESOS**. They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility documents, in order for these to be received by the BAC Secretariat at the same address on **October 7-12, 2005.**

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain additional information from the Land Registry Authority and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on **October 25, 2005.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the Bidders who passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: THREE THOUSAND (P3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **October 20-25, 2005.**

The LRA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 26, 2005** at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5/F LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City, at the following schedule, to wit:

Project	Time
RD Bldg. Iloilo City/Iloilo Province	10:00 a.m.
RD Bldg. Bais City	1:30 p.m.
RD Bldg. Saranggani	3:00 p.m.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the above address on or before **November 7, 2005** at the following schedule, to wit:

Project	Time
RD Bldg. Iloilo City/Iloilo Province	10:00 a.m.
RD Bldg. Bais City	1:30 p.m.
RD Bldg. Saranggani	3:00 p.m.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall then follow after each submission on **November 7, 2005.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.

LRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

13 September 2005 at Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **RONALD A. ORTILE**
Chairman
LRA Bids and Awards Committee on Infrastructure
5/F LRA Building,
East Avenue corner NIA Road
Diliman, Quezon City * Telefax No. 9244733

(PDI – Sept. 17 & Oct. 1, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES
C.Y. 2005-2006
Approved Budget for the Contract - Php2,220,000.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	September 13-27, 2005 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	October 4, 2005 9:00 a.m. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	October 18, 2005 9.00 a.m. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI - Sept. 10 & 17, 2005)

ROTARY CLUB OF NEW MANILA, QUEZON CITY
DISTRICT 3780
LAUNCHING OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAM
OPERATION BIRTH RIGHT OPLAN HIWA REGISTRATION
AUGUST 28, 2005

SHOWN are District 3780 Governor Benjie Bacorro and the RCNM members during his visit at the launching of Medical Mission at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish on Aug. 28. Standing from left are Dhora Noveno, Lea Martinez, Rtn Sonny Reyes, Hedy Velayo, Raffy Jose, Spouse Marichie Jose, Pres Med Quiambao, Bgy. Mariana Capt. Bong San Miguel, PDG Mar Nery, Boy Oliveros, Rene Pronstroller, Romy Encanto. Seated from left are Raym Velayo, Doc Alex Varilla, Lito Noveno & Larry Martinez .

Schools First Means Students First

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE
5th Floor, Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 6366542, 633-93-43
Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department Of Education Division Offices**, through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT : **Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs**
LOCATION : Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
BRIEF DESCRIPTION : Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs
Lot B : Secondary Armchairs
Lot C : Elementary Tables & Chairs
Lot D : Secondary Armchairs
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE : Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2004 and 2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% Allocation)
CONTRACT DURATION : One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES : "Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
		CY 2004				CY 2005			
DepED Division Office	Address (See Deped Website for details)	Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Arm Chairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Arm Chairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION II									
1 TUGUEGARAO CITY	Tuguegarao Cagayan	-	-	901	495,550.00	581	697,200.00	-	-
2 ISABELA	Isabela, Isabela	2,574	3,088,800.00	3,328	1,879,300.00	6,468	7,761,600.00	4,771	2,624,050.00
3 NUEVA VISCAYA	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	720	864,000.00	546	300,300.00	1,190	1,428,000.00	2,067	1,136,850.00
4 QUIRINO	Cabarroguis, Quirino	194	232,800.00	569	312,950.00	352	422,400.00	1,638	900,900.00
REGION IV-A									
1 BATANGAS	Batangas City	1,940	2,328,000.00	4,236	2,329,800.00	4,002	4,802,400.00	8,738	4,805,900.00
2 BATANGAS CITY	Batangas City	109	130,800.00	234	128,700.00	523	627,600.00	1,137	625,350.00
3 CAVITE	Trece Martirez City	4,620	5,544,000.00	3,135	1,724,250.00	7,058	8,469,600.00	4,915	2,703,250.00
4 CAVITE CITY	Cavite City	148	214,600.00	317	215,560.00	235	340,750.00	501	340,680.00
5 LAGUNA	Sta. Cruz, Laguna	2,031	2,437,200.00	4,451	2,448,050.00	5,045	6,054,000.00	4,949	2,721,950.00
6 CALAMBA CITY	Calamba City	-	-	1,621	891,550.00	1,043	1,251,600.00	-	-
7 SAN PABLO CITY	San Pablo City	290	348,000.00	207	113,850.00	350	420,000.00	1,082	595,100.00
8 QUEZON	Talipan, Pagbilao, Quezon	3,506	4,207,200.00	4,146	2,280,300.00	7,782	9,338,400.00	12,336	6,784,800.00
REGION IV-B									
1 ROMBLON	Romblon, Romblon	285	342,000.00	1,565	860,750.00	438	525,600.00	4,360	2,398,000.00
REGION VI									
1 AKLAN	Kalibo, Aklan	605	1,203,950.00	1,674	920,700.00	2,970	3,564,000.00	4,145	2,279,750.00
2 ANTIQUE	San Jose, Antique	1,646	1,975,200.00	-	-	1,933	2,319,600.00	3,179	1,748,450.00
3 SAN CARLOS CITY	San Carlos City, Negros Occ.	305	366,000.00	-	-	365	438,000.00	350	192,500.00
REGION VII									
1 BOHOL	Tagbilaran City	1,211	1,453,200.00	6,009	2,704,050.00	2,909	3,490,800.00	14,416	6,487,200.00
2 CEBU	Cebu City	3,602	4,322,400.00	5,287	2,907,850.00	9,386	11,263,200.00	10,242	5,633,100.00
3 MANDAUE CITY	Mandaue City	325	354,250.00	615	295,200.00	175	190,750.00	1,956	938,880.00
4 NEGROS ORIENTAL	Dumaguete City	2,444	2,663,960.00	2,432	1,037,977.60	5,252	5,724,680.00	7,078	3,020,880.40
5 DUMAGUETE CITY	Dumaguete City	-	-	511	281,050.00	100	120,000.00	753	414,150.00
6 TANJAY CITY	Tanjay City	130	156,000.00	199	109,450.00	160	192,000.00	343	188,650.00
7 BAYAWAN CITY	Bayawan City	240	288,000.00	366	201,300.00	333	399,600.00	581	319,550.00
8 CEBU CITY	Cebu City	1,125	1,237,500.00	2,484	1,316,520.00	2,640	2,904,000.00	4,112	2,179,360.00
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS									
1 BILIRAN	Naval, Leyte	322	386,400.00	272	149,600.00	480	576,000.00	907	498,850.00
2 LEYTE	Tacloban City	2,711	3,253,200.00	3,348	1,841,400.00	6,665	7,998,000.00	6,215	3,418,250.00
3 TACLOBAN CITY	Tacloban City	-	-	1,194	656,700.00	696	835,200.00	325	178,750.00
4 ORMOC CITY	Ormoc City	157	142,870.00	750	307,500.00	547	497,770.00	892	385,720.00
5 SOUTHERN LEYTE	Maasin, Southern Leyte	574	688,800.00	909	499,950.00	613	735,600.00	2,553	1,404,150.00
6 MAASIN CITY	Maasin, Southern Leyte	-	-	-	-	234	257,400.00	300	150,000.00
7 EASTERN SAMAR	Borongan, Eastern Samar	750	900,000.00	1,071	589,050.00	2,250	2,700,000.00	2,683	1,475,650.00
8 NORTHERN SAMAR	Catarman, Northern Samar	1,388	1,665,600.00	1,035	569,250.00	3,465	4,158,000.00	3,619	1,990,450.00
9 SAMAR	Catbalogan, Samar	1,544	1,930,000.00	861	481,643.40	3,538	4,422,500.00	1,976	1,105,374.40
10 CALBAYOG CITY	Calbayog City	380	345,040.00	300	124,800.00	779	707,332.00	500	208,000.00
REGION IX									
1 ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY	Sibugay	922	1,106,400.00	2,829	1,555,950.00	4,070	4,884,000.00	4,751	2,613,050.00
REGION X									
1 MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL	Oroquieta City	573	687,600.00	826	454,300.00	1,094	1,312,800.00	1,748	961,400.00
2 MISAMIS ORIENTAL	Cagayan de Oro City	1,290	1,548,000.00	1,611	886,050.00	2,765	3,318,000.00	5,248	2,886,400.00
3 GINGOOG CITY	Gingoog City	213	255,600.00	281	154,550.00	330	396,000.00	550	302,500.00
4 CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	Cagayan de Oro City	323	387,600.00	2,542	1,398,100.00	1,140	1,368,000.00	2,737	1,505,350.00
REGION XIII									
1 AGUSAN DEL NORTE	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte	718	861,600.00	499	274,450.00	1,521	1,825,200.00	1,076	591,800.00
2 BUTUAN CITY	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte	669	802,800.00	883	485,650.00	1,148	1,377,600.00	1,251	688,050.00
3 AGUSAN DEL SUR	San Francisco, Agusan del Sur	2,223	2,667,600.00	-	-	-	-	9,925	5,458,750.00
4 SIARGAO	Dapa, Siargao	274	328,800.00	219	120,450.00	450	540,000.00	1,119	615,450.00
5 SURIGAO DEL SUR	Tandag, Surigao del Sur	394	472,800.00	2,201	1,210,550.00	-	-	5,946	3,270,300.00
6 BISLIG CITY	Bislig City	260	312,000.00	379	208,450.00	543	651,600.00	782	430,100.00
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)									
1 MANILA	City Hall, Manila	2,279	2,734,800.00	6,799	3,739,450.00	2,695	3,234,000.00	7,733	4,253,150.00
2 QUEZON CITY	Misamis St., Bago Bantay, Q.C.	2,270	2,724,000.00	11,559	6,357,450.00	3,866	4,639,200.00	19,688	10,828,400.00
3 MARIKINA CITY	Sta. Elena, Marikina City	-	-	2,717	1,494,350.00	-	-	3,512	1,931,600.00
4 PASIG CITY & SAN JUAN	Caruncho Ave., Pasig City	-	-	3,372	1,854,600.00	-	-	4,412	2,426,600.00
5 CALOOCAN CITY	10th Ave. Caloocan City	1,500	1,800,000.00	7,599	4,179,450.00	2,850	3,420,000.00	9,048	4,976,400.00
6 VALENZUELA CITY	Marulas, Valenzuela City	1,214	1,456,800.00	1,314	722,700.00	1,754	2,104,800.00	1,900	1,045,000.00
7 MALABON CITY-NAVOTAS	Dagat-Dagatan, Malabon City	929	1,114,800.00	2,988	1,643,400.00	1,510	1,812,000.00	4,135	2,274,250.00
8 MAKATI CITY	Gen. Luna St., Makati City	1,000	1,200,000.00	-	-	-	-		-
9 PARAÑAQUE CITY	Kabihasnan, Parañaque City	425	510,000.00	2,747	1,510,850.00	-	-	5,218	2,869,900.00
10 LAS PIÑAS CITY	Las Piñas City	-	-	4,039	2,221,450.00	-	-	5,715	3,143,250.00
11 MUNTINLUPA CITY	Poblacion, Muntinlupa City	241	289,200.00	2,065	1,135,750.00	-	-	-	-
12 TAGUIG AND PATEROS	Capina Elem. Sch., Taguig	225	270,000.00	3,351	1,843,050.00	-	-	5,246	2,885,300.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The DepED Division Offices will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on September 23, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Offices.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The DepED Division Offices, will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on **September 23, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Offices.**
Bids must be received on or before **October 6, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Office.** Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Date of Publication : September 10 & 17, 2005
Newspaper : Philippine Daily Inquirer

Schools First Means Students First

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on September 29, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE REAL ESTATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
METRO MANILA			
AM-ML-118	No. 100 Industry Road II corner Reparo Road, Araneta University Village (Now Potrero), Malabon City	2,360 m^2 industrial lot (TCT No. M-21827) with bldgs. & imp.	P 25,000,000.00
BAGUIO			
AM-ML-119	Bo. Lucban (Now Ambiong), Baguio City	18,517 m^2, adjoining 2 parcels of interior agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-79824 & T-79823)	P 27,776,000.00
BATANGAS			
AM-MC-120	Bo. Tumaway, Talisay	16,995 m^2, adjoining 2 parcels of agro-residential lots (TCT Nos. T-107334 & T-107335)	P 9,901,900.00
AM-JA-121	Maharlika Highway, Brgy. 1, Sto.Tomas	7,505 m^2 industrial/commercial lot (TCT No. T-93491) with 2-storey hospital bldg.	P 40,000,000.00
AM-JA-122	Along National Road (near Sta. Anastacia Elem. School), San Rafael, Sto. Tomas	1,165 m^2 residential-commercial lot (TCT No. T-93491) with 2-storey hospital bldg.	P 3,931,800.00
BULACAN			
AM-PY-123	Along Cagayan Valley National Road, Brgy. Malimbubong, San Ildefonso	80,965 m^2, adjoining 3 parcels of industrial lots (TCT) Nos. T-202016 to T-202020) with bldgs. &imp.	P 79,187,000.00
LGP-1	Tabang, Plaridel	1,686 m^2, adjoining 2 parcels of residential/ industrial lots (TCT No.T-118054) with bldgs. & imp. and machinery & equipment	P 6,284,900.00
AM-MR-124	Along Camia St., Manzano Subd., Brgy. Ibayao, Marilao	294 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. T-351870)	P 987,840.00
CAVITE			
AM-DE-125	No. 143 Sampaloc St., Justinville Subdivision, Bo. Panapaan, Bacoor	160 m^2 residential lot (TCT No.T-1109645) with bldgs. & imp.	P 1,294,600.00
LAGUNA			
AM-MR-126	Lot 2 Blk. 15 St. Joseph 4, Brgy. Butong, Cabuyao	80 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. T-469873) with bldgs. & imp.	P 358,000.00
PANGASINAN			
	Pinewood Village, Bo. Banding, Pozzorubio	7,963 vacant subdivision lots	
AM-JA-127a	Blk. 15 Lots 5-13, 15-29	2,230 m^2 (covered 24 TCTs)	P 2,230,000.00
AM-JA-127b	16 5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-23, 25, 27-29	1,660 m^2 (covered by 20 TCTs)	P 1,660,000.00
AM-JA-127c	17 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 1	1,427 m^2 (covered by 12 TCTs)	P 1,427,000.00
AM-JA-127d	19 3, 5-28	2,446 m^2 (covered by 25 TCTs)	P 2,446,000.00
		19 subdivision lots with resd'l. blgs.	
AM-JA-127e	Blk. 15 Lot 14	90 m^2 TCT No. 272577	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127f	30	120 m^2 TCT No. 272593	P 230,000.00
AM-JA-127g	16 6	100 m^2 TCT No. 272542	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127h	10	90 m^2 TCT No. 272546	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127i	16	90 m^2 TCT No. 272552	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127j	24	90 m^2 TCT No. 272561	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127k	26	90 m^2 TCT No. 272563	P 177,500.00
AM-JA-127l	30	120 m^2 TCT No. 272567	P 230,000.00
AM-JA-127m	17 7	100 m^2 TCT No. 272594	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127n	9	100 m^2 TCT No. 272596	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127o	13	100 m^2 TCT No. 272599	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127p	15	100 m^2 TCT No. 272602	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127q	17	100 m^2 TCT No. 272604	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127r	19	100 m^2 TCT No. 272606	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127s	21	100 m^2 TCT No. 272608	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127t	23	100 m^2 TCT No. 272637	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127u	25	100 m^2 TCT No. 272611	P 210,200.00
AM-JA-127v	27	107 m^2 TCT No. 272613	P 217,200.00
AM-JA-127w	19 4	90 m^2 TCT No. 272619	P 151,200.00
AM-JA-127x	Bo. Alipangpang, Pozzorubio	18,230 m^2, adjoining 2 parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 272617 & 272615)	P 2,115,900.00
RIZAL			
AM-DE-128	Lot 31 Blk. 14, Montano Drive, Palos Verdes Garden Heights Subd., Bo. Seven Hills, Antipolo City	300 m^2 vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-301965)	P 735,000.00
SRG-01	605 6th St., San Martin Subd. Brgy. Muzon, Angono	240 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. T-680746) with bldg. & imp.	P 844,900.00
QUEZON			
AM-ML-129	Mamala, Sariaya	62,108 m^2 interior lot (TCT No. 392734) with bldgs & imps.	P 17,200,000.00
TARLAC			
AM-ML-130	McArthur Highway, Bo. San Rafael, Tarlac City	4,310 m^2, adjoining 4 parcels of vacant commercial/ industrial lots (TCT Nos. 381735 to 381738)	P 32,325,000.00
ZAMBOANGA			
	Country Homes Phase III, Ayala, Zamboanga City	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.	
AM-MC-131	Lot 9 Blk 10	180 m^2 TCT No. 185,487	P 352,000.00
AM-MC-132	26 14	162 m^2 TCT No. 185,488	P 316,800.00
CHATTELS			
AM-ED-133	Brgy. Kabilang Gulod, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	M/V "Super 85", 85 footer motorized passenger ferry vessel, twin engine, twin propelled Catamaran type, capable of carrying up to 185 persons, with machinery and navigational equipment	P 8,925,000.00
AM-JA-134	Brgy. Natividad, Pangil, Laguna	Various machinery and equipment for Alkali-Ion/ Electrolytic Water Treatment	P 9,833,900.00
DAS-003B	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit X-ray Machine with Tomography, Siemens, SN 124477, Made in Germany	P 151,900.00
DAS-003C	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit Operating Room Light, Dual, AMSCO Challenger	P 112,500.00
DAS-003E	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	Two (2) units Ventilator, BEAR 5, SN 3063 & 4901	P 275,000.00
DAS-003J	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit Autoclave Sterilizer, Pelton & Crane, SN A-6-3928	P 262,500.00
DAS-003K	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	Twenty seven (27) units Hospital Beds, Joules/Hilrom type	P 212,600.00
DAS-003V	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit Anesthesia Machine, Ohio, SN ABEF00004	P 171,900.00
DAS-004AB	De Fuego, Gen Trias, Cavite	One (1) unit reconditioned generating set, Nippon Sharyo, 150 KVA, powered by HINO DK 10T Diesel Engine with Serial No. KV47200, Chassis No. 19010289, 3-Phase; 220 V: 394 Amperes; 60 cycles; 1800 rpm; with standard accessories	P 683,100.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers. 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; (045) 4161389/4161390/850-3637 and 818-9511 loc. 1427 for DAS, (086) 231-7352/826-0289 and 818-9511 local 1486, for SRG, and (052) 480-7065/480-7081 and 818-9511 loc. 1423 for LGP.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - Sept. 16 & 17, 2005)

Expressions of Interest Building Works

Expressions of Interest are sought from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for all types of maintenance and project works at a prestigious residence, located in Forbes Park, Makati City. Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing & General Building Contractors should submit details of company, type and scope of services (trades) offered and list of clients. Security screening will occur and only selected Contractors will be notified for further discussions. Send information to **Ms. Charon Catalan**, Property Services Manager, Australian Embassy, Fax # 757-8268

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING BY A GARMENT EXPORTER

A. JUNIOR MERCHANDISER

At least one year experience in garment manufacturing (export)
Computer literate

B. PATTERN MAKER

At least two years experience
Possess strong knowledge in children's & ladies wear

C. INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

At least 3 years experience in garments mftg. company
Computer literate
Knowledge in preparation of operations breakdown and line balancing

D. SAMPLE MAKER

At least one year experience in children's wear
Can operate special machines and possess knowledge in quality assurance

Send resumé with 2x2 photo at 431 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City or fax to 643-7720 & 642-0230

USCNC Information Center offering the following positions:

A International On-line Sales & Marketing Representatives

Excellent personal and communication skills, willing to work on shifts within Makati or Ortigas. Knowledge in Mandarin is an advantage

B Programmer & Graphic Designers

With extensive knowledge and experience in C++, Visual Basic 6 and VB.Net
OR experience in PHP, ASP, _JavaScript, _VBScript, Flash, Dreamweaver
OR in My SQL, SQL 2000, Crystal Reports

Please send your resumé with the latest photo and bring a valid ID to esteken@yahoo.com.tw, yehhui2006@yahoo.com or visit:

USCNC Information Center
Unit 23-B Chatham House Condominium
Herrera St., Corner Valero St., Salcedo Village,
Makati City, Manila
Telephone: 02-8435377 Fax: 02-8435377

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION

September 12, 2005

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) invites all qualified security agencies to pre-qualify and bid for the security requirements at the NHMFC Head Office, NHMFC Taguig Warehouse, Cebu City, Cagayan De Oro City and La Union Regional Offices, and Imus, Sta. Rosa and Bacolod Satellite Offices with a total of Thirty-four (34) security guards.

Interested parties may secure pre-qualification information sheet starting September 21 to 23, 2005 from the Office of the Manager, Physical Resources Department at the 7th Floor, Filomena Building III, 104 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the NHMFC Board Room on November 17, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., by which actual submission and opening of bids shall be announced. Only pre-qualified security agencies will be allowed to attend the pre-bid conference. Failure to attend the pre-bidding conference will be a ground for disqualification to participate in the bidding.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price but not exceeding P10,000.00 in the form of cash, manager's check payable to NHMFC or GSIS bid bond.

NHMFC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality/deficiency therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Corporation.

For further information/clarification on the above matters, please contact Office of the Manager, Physical Resources Department, Telephone Nos. 817-6021 and 893-1501, local 378.

(Sgd.) **LUZVIMINDA P. LADORES**
Sr. Vice-Pres./Functional Head
Administrative Group

(PDI--Sept. 17, 2005)

Florilege Vocal de Tours choral competition

CHOIRS ARE INVITED to participate in The Florilege Vocal de Tours Choral Competition in Tours, France on June 2-4, 2006.

Over C10,000.00 worth of cash prizes are at stake for the placers in the 5 different categories, namely mixed choirs, all-male or all-female choirs, mixed vocal ensembles, free program, and children's choirs.

Deadline for application is November 15, 2005 and details of admission will be faxed or emailed no later than January 1, 2006.

For more information, email florilege.vocal@free.fr or visit http://www.florilegevocal.com or call the Cultural Center of the Philippines Music Division at 832-1125 local 1605.

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 (A) OF DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 15 SERIES OF 1990, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANCELS FROM THE RECORD ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATIONS WHICH EXPIRED AS OF **MARCH 31, 2005 EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2005.**

UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME LAW (ACT NO. 3883), AS AMMENDED, OWNERS OR PROPRIETORS SHOULD RENEW THEIR BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS A FORMAL NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED.

FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE:
17 September 2005, Makati City

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
Director, BTRCP

(PDI - Sept 17, 2005)

EYE REFRACTION!

FITS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EYEGLASSES WITH GRADE

VISION PLAZA

41-42 Shopwise Arcade
Araneta Center, Cubao
Tel. Nos. : 911-27-24
911-27-13

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Collins celebrates 25 years with Bantay Bata Foundation

COLLINS INTERNATIONAL TRADING Corporation, a leading distributor of consumer durables in the Philippines, celebrates 25 years of excellent consumer-driven service.

Collins has gone a long way from marketing and distributing to building and developing of brands and products in the Philippines. Collins has been living up to its commitment of providing quality after-sales too, which defines its ultimate marketing objective - the customers' total satisfaction.

Instead of throwing a lavish party, Collins prefers to celebrate its 25th anniversary by doing some charity works for the community.

"Current events and disasters are very prevalent in our community. Hoping to help address some of these problems, Collins takes some generous steps to show its care and concern for the people. Through the help of our Alay Kalinga Program, we can bring hope to many Filipinos, particularly to the Filipino children," says Julie Lee, brand marketing manager - Omron of Collins.

This is exemplified by their commitment to Bantay Bata Foundation. The Collins Alay Kalinga with Bantay Bata Program runs from June 2005 to May 2006. Its main objective is for consumers to buy Collins products to generate funds that will be used to sponsor programs of Bantay Bata Foundation.

The priority of this one-year advocacy program is given to Bantay Bata Foundation projects that would unswervingly support activities in providing children better education, health, shelter, rehabilitation due to physical or emotional sufferings and other such projects that support the welfare and development of children and youth.

The campaign "Buy Collins products and help a child" will involve selected Collins products and Collins dealers nationwide. Each of these products sold in dealers' stores will have a corresponding amount to be donated.

Collins is the proud marketing arm and exclusive distributor of various well-known brands such as Sharp Calculators of Japan, Moulinex Household Appliances of France, Krups Household Appliances of Germany, Dowell Home Appliances and Omron Healthcare Products of Japan.

The company now strongly stands to assume the leadership role in consumer durables marketing as it promises to bring in more innovative products to the Philippines for a continuous growth, stability and leadership.

Collins International Trading Corp aims high and looks forward to more successful years to come, serving the growing demands of the market in order to help enhance the quality of life of many more Filipinos.

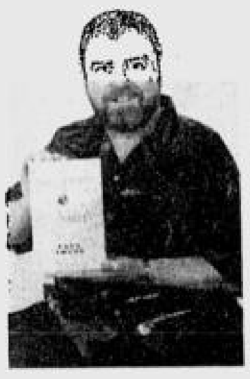
For more information about Collins Alay Kalinga and Collins products, please call at tel. nos.: 681-6161/681-6163 for Manila inquiries and 681-6160 for provincial inquiries; or fax at 646-5979/681-6162; or log-on to www.collins-international.com.ph or e-mail at marketing@collins-international.com.ph.

Collins products are available in stores nationwide. Call now to know which stores nearest you offer Collins products. This is one way you could help many Filipino children nationwide. Support Collins Alay Kalinga Program with Bantay Bata.

RCCG celebrates 'Holy Ghost Service'

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD (RCCG) located at the 3rd floor Didache Bldg., España Blvd., Sampaloc, Manila (opposite of UST and near corner A.H. Lacson) is celebrating this year its "Holy Ghost Service" on Sept. 18 at 3 p.m. RCCG, a worldwide Pentecostal church that began in Nigeria, is inviting Filipinos who are encountering problems to come. For inquiries, call 732-2382.

AUSTRALIAN BOOK AUTHOR VISITS MANILA

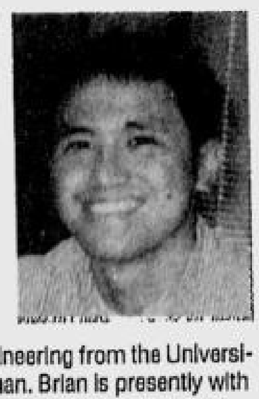


Paul Young, a businessman from Brisbane Australia is now in Manila to promote his first novel titled, 'The Griffin in the Valley', published by Trafford Publishing, in 2004. It's a fictional book about a young man who chose career in the field of journalism and become a hard-hitting investigative reporter. Each story shows how a reporter gather news materials, searching for truth, breaking headlines that would command the public's attention and elevate him to a newsworthy personality in his own right. According to some reporters, who are lucky to have a copy of the book with signed autograph by the author during a simple dinner in a posh restaurant in Malate, Manila, the story pictured how a hard-hitting news reporter is producing some degree of controversy.

AIM'S MARKETING 'GURU' AT CCP

Professor Alejandro Ferreria, former dean and marketing 'guru' of the Asian Institute of Management was the resource speaker during the seminar held under the auspices of the College of Business Administration of the Central Colleges of the Philippines (CCP). The seminar with the theme 'Entrepreneurship in Action' was attended by the faculty members and senior students of the College. In his talk, professor Ferreria stressed the vital role played by small and medium sized entrepreneurs in improving a nation's economy and making entrepreneurship a viable option for the new graduates when deciding on a chosen career. The successful seminar was capped by the awarding of a Certificate of Appreciation to professor Ferreria by the school administration.

ALANDY-DY COMPLETES MBA



Brian Anthony Alandy-Dy recently finished his Master in Business Administration from the Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, the consistent best business school in the world. He finished his primary and secondary school in Xavier School and his tertiary, BS Industrial Engineering from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Brian is presently with Colgate-Palmolive USA, as one of their executives. He was with Procter & Gamble for several years prior to his pursuing his post graduate studies abroad. He is the son of Adolfo and Leticia Alandy-Dy.

Product FILES

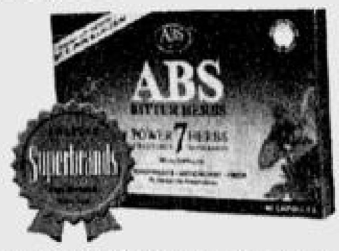
Korean Beef Bun

INTERNATIONAL FAVORITE KOREan Beef Stew is now in Ministop's deliciously soft steamed buns. Filled with authentic Korean flavors that create the distinct sweet-spicy taste we love, the new Korean Beef Bun is a joy to the senses. Delightfully aromatic, soft and savory, the new addition to Ministop's tempting siopao family makes for one very appetizing treat. Beef cured and flavored to perfection, added choice seasonings and spices is the secret behind this new Ministop delight. So take a bite into this Korean pride created just for the hearty Filipino appetite and experience the Korean beef surprise in every bun for only P30. Available in all Ministop outlets until Oct. 12.

High Altitude Eau de Toilette for Men

HIGHLY RESPECTED BY FRIENDS AND loved ones because of being a gentleman, it's only appropriate that every detail about his appearance ooze respectability. High Altitude Eau de Toilette for Men presents fresh and wholesome personalities. Whether at work or at play, rest assured of long lasting fragrance that will truly stand all day. The designer-inspired scents come in 3 variants to choose from: High Altitude EDT - Amplify, Intensify and Magnify. Uplifting scents of High Altitude EDT for Men are available at Mercury Drug service outlets within Metro Manila.

ABS Bitter Herbs is a Superbrand



THE HERBAL SUPPLEMENT COMpany, ABS Herbs has been recently awarded the globally acclaimed status of recognition - Superbrands for its popular, and top-selling herbal supplement ABS Bitter Herbs capsule. Having a Superbrands status reassures existing customers that they are buying the right brand. Retailers are assured that they are stocking the right product that has a high potential for increased sales and suppliers will have faith that they are dealing with a recognized brand leader in the industry. So when looking for an herbal supplement for your health, choose the product made by ABS Herbs. To learn more visit www.abs-herbs.com.ph.

High quality car air filter from Koji

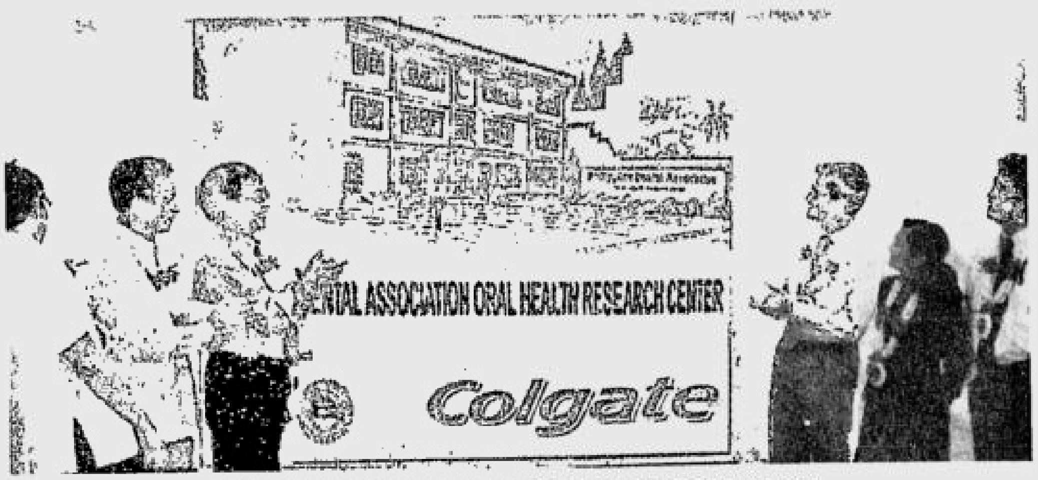
BUYING NEW CAR MODELS ENtail huge investment. Thus, it is essential to provide maximum filtration protection for your car's engine. There can only be one trusted brand when it comes to automotive air filtration, Koji Filters. They are designed and manufactured to meet if not exceed OEM engine manufacturer standards. Every KOJI filter passes the stringent quality control tests of Japanese car manufacturers. It uses high efficiency filter media with correct thickness and micron rating for maximum dirt holding capacity. The 2005 new product releases includes air filter element for Honda CRV; Toyota Altis, Vios, Innova, Fortuner, Corolla; Ford Escape, Explorer; Isuzu D-Max, Alterra, Trooper; Mazda Tribute; Nissan Frontier; Mitsubishi Lancer; Kia Carnival, K2700 and Chevrolet Venture. "Do-it-yourself" installation manual is included in every product. For inquiries about other Koji air filter models, call 725-6858 and 410-1187.

New treats from Mario's Kitchen

MARIO'S KITCHEN HAS COME UP with their new sizzling appetizers - their own version of sisig, frankfurters and onions, spicy gambas and tenderloin tips. After trying these "appeteasers" there are set meals good for 10 persons, dubbed as the Group Meals with six set menus to choose from. Enjoy these new treats the Mario's Kitchen way. They also accept reservations and catering, visit or call them at Taste Buds, Robinson's Place, Ermita with telefax number 302-0195. Visit their other branch at Metrowalk, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City with tel. nos. 638-4140, 638-4379.

A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY EVENT AT AYALA WESTGROVE HEIGHTS

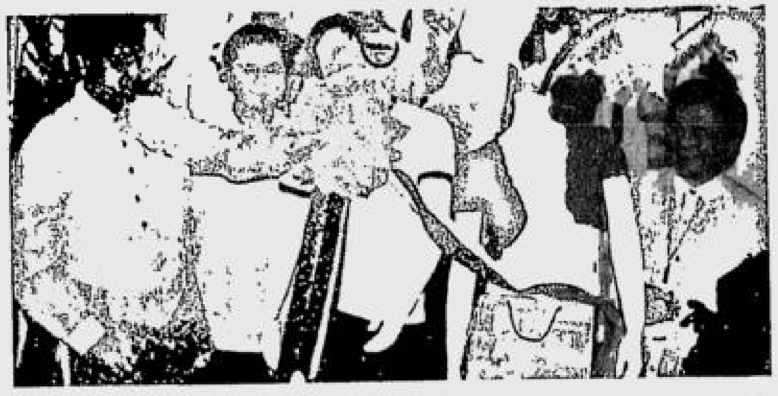
Ayala Westgrove Heights is a fully integrated and master-planned community touted as the 'The Next Big Thing after Ayala Alabang'. Much like its well received predecessor, Ayala Westgrove Heights is an upscale neighborhood that follows a grand vision of a sustainable and progressive community. Just recently, the subdivision hosted a fun event for the family once again at its lush hills and groves. 'Big Top on the Hill Top' was a successful event that gave homeowners, future neighbors and guests of all ages a special opportunity to experience unique treats at the exclusive development. For further information on Ayala Westgrove Heights, call 728-7000 or log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph. Photo shows the kids enjoying the bird and reptile show at Ayala Westgrove Heights 'Big Top on the Hill Top' event.


NTAL ASSOCIATION ORAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER
Colgate

ORAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER GROUND BREAKING

Colgate-Palmolive Philippines Inc and the Philippine Dental Association held the ground breaking ceremony for the PDA's new Oral Health Research Center at BCDA Taguig, Metro Manila. The center will serve as a venue to conduct dental health researches and clinical studies. As part of the PDA's community dental service program, the center is also accessible to the general public for free dental check-ups and consultations. Colgate which has been a strong ally of the PDA in the last 30 years sponsored the construction of the 1st floor of the Oral Health Research Center which will also be known as the 'Colgate Floor'. The ceremony was led by (from right) Dr. Angel 'Bong' David II, CPPI professional relations manager; Bessie Colet, CPPI category marketing manager; Cesar Melo, CPPI president and general manager; Dr. Walfrido Cruz, outgoing PDA president; Dr. Arsenio Donesa, chair OHRC and Dr. Mario Esquillo, incoming PDA president.

PANGILINAN OPENS BOBSON BOOTH AT FRANCHISE FAIR



Sen. Francis 'Kiko' Pangilinan opened the Bobson booth by performing the ribbon cutting ceremonies during Franchise 2005, the Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo which was recently held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Assisting Sen. Pangilinan was Victor Tan, president of Bobson, and Samie Lim, chair of Philippine Franchise Association. Bobson is now opening its doors to investors who want to explore new business opportunities. Investors are assured of the company's full support and assistance. For more information about franchising opportunities with Bobson, call 365-2800 to 02.

WELCOME SAN PEDRO
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SAN PEDRO

'TALLEST' PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE ROTARY

The Rotary Club of San Pedro South (RCSPS) recently launched the club-sponsored 'Welcome to San Pedro' billboard located along South Luzon Expressway near La Marea toll exit. It also carries the 'Service Above Itself' motto making it also at its highest peak. The billboard is presumably the tallest public service of the Rotary in the country. In the pictures are (from left): Rtn. Winnie Maningas, RCSPS president nominee and San Vicente Barangay Captain Norvic Solidum, NR Joaquin, San Pedro Vice Mayor Baby Cataquiz, DGN Rose Celis, Representative Uliran Joaquin of 1st District of Laguna, Governor Darwin Igualada of Rotary International District 3820, RCSPS president Jun Marasigan, Rtn. Hermie Palacios, Rtn. Nelson Bagabaldo, RCSPS secretary Danny Bercilles and president elect Ver Navarro.

CONTRACT SIGNING

SESLA NAMES INSURER

Shell Employees Savings and Loans Association Inc (Sesla), a non-stock, non profit savings and loan association established to cultivate a habit of saving among Shell employees and retirees and to provide them financial assistance, appoints AsianLife and General Assurance Corp (AsianLife and General), as its insurer in providing life insurance benefits for its members. Shown in photo are (front, from left) AsianLife and General EVP Bobby Alfonso and president and CEO Eulogio Mendoza, Sesla president Alain Jomarie Santos and treasurer Alfredo Rogelio Reyes; (back, from left) AsianLife and General AVP Edwin Ong and assistant manager Cherryl Montoya, Sesla secretary Milagros Azanza and office manager Alma Calub.

Strike looms at Makati Med

By Clarissa S. Batino

EMPLOYEES OF MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER yesterday threatened to go on strike and paralyze hospital operations over an impasse in its collective bargaining agreement with management.

And if the workers proceed with their plan to strike, management may have to call their bluff and shut down the hospital for good, according to a hospital official.

Gabino Mendoza, Makati Med president, said the planned strike was making the company's creditors anxious, and interested investors nervous.

The hospital is trying to restructure P1.2 billion in bank debts. It is also trying to attract at least P100 million in fresh capital.

But a workers' strike, especially a prolonged one, could prompt banks to call in the loans instead of lengthen their maturity. It could also drive away the new money, said Mendoza.

"If the strike pushes through ... we would lose patients and this would severely hit our finances," said the Makati Med president. "We may not recover when that happens, so there is a danger that the hospital would close if the pressure becomes too great."

The employees' union on Sept. 12 filed a notice of strike with the labor department.

Mendoza said the union and management could not agree on the terms of a new CBA once the previous one falls due this year.

The management asked the workers for a two-year moratorium on wage hikes. The union wants a P1,500 increase in the monthly salary across-the-board.

Makati Med workers are not convinced that the hospital is in a really bad shape, according to Mendoza.

Once the country's premier hospital, the 60-year-old Makati Med sustained P300 million in losses from 2002 to 2004, partly due to inefficiency.

"We just hope our employees would understand and give us two years to turn around operations of the hospital," said Mendoza. "Then we can start talking about a wage hike."

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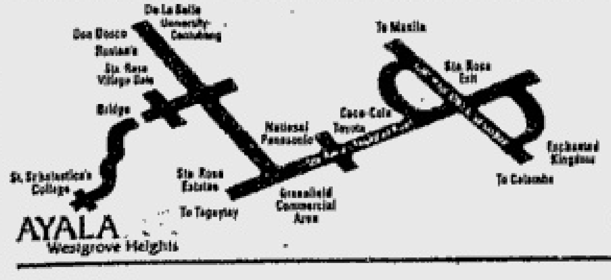
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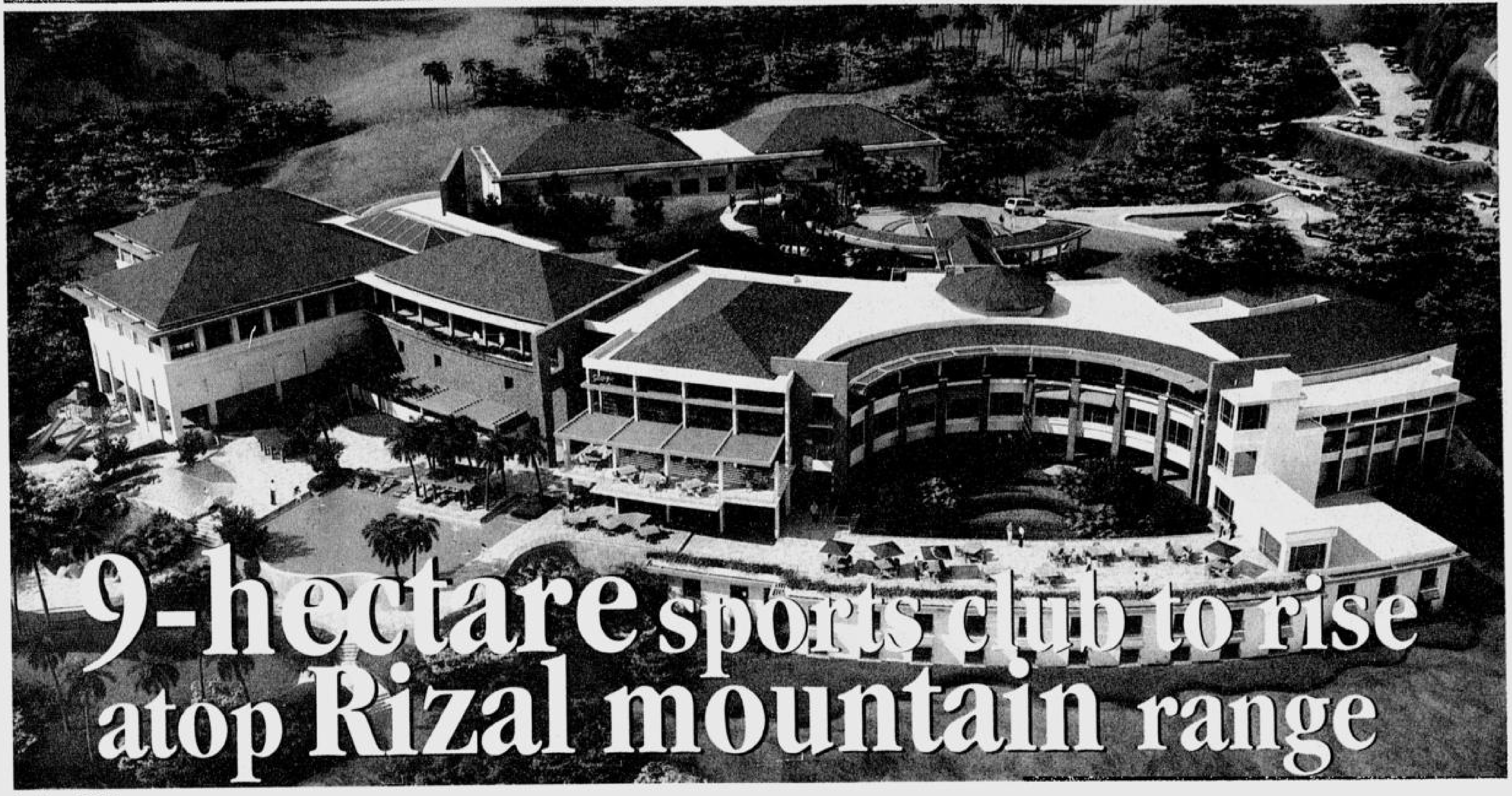


9-hectare sports club to rise atop Rizal mountain range

By Tessa R. Salazar

AIM FOR ADVENTURE ON top of the San Mateo mountain range. With an elevation of 345 meters above sea level, the skylines of Manila Bay, Makati and Ortigas can be enjoyed. And, on a clear day, you can even catch a glimpse of Laguna province and Mt. Arayat in Pampanga.

Stroll along guided hikes with your choice of difficulty level, or try out a jungle survival course, and acquaint yourself with camping skills such as lighting a fire without matches and reading maps.

Filinvest Land's 8.9-hectare Timberland nature and sports club—envisioned to be nestled amid the Sierra Madre mountains—will offer all these once the club is fully completed by the first quarter of 2007.

With an estimated gross building area of 15,878 square meters and with five building levels, the site is being prepared for construction, which will commence full scale in November.

Timberland nature and sports club is an offshoot of the earlier project Timberland Heights, whose land elevation is twice higher than nearby Antipolo.

"It gets cool here, also. It's not as high as Tagaytay, although the ambiance going up there is replicated in the sense that it's on a high level with scenic view," said Filinvest Leisure vice president and group head Lennie Mendoza.

Club shares

The sports club is estimated to cost P350 million to build. The SEC-approved proprietary shares are worth P1 billion. Thus, Filinvest is set to sell club shares.

The club is estimated to have 3,000 members. Filinvest describes it as a first-rate exclusive membership club in a mountain resort setting that can accommodate overnight stays.

The club is seen to generate employment within the community. Filinvest plans to hire residents of the area and train them.

Phases

Phase 1 of the development will have dining facilities (such as a family restaurant and private dining rooms), pool and sports bars, a library and a public KTV bar. Sports facilities would include a swimming pool, badminton courts, and multipurpose halls. A spa and children's facilities are also included in the plan.

Phase 2, on the other hand, would have banquet facilities and a bowling alley.

"We venture into markets where we see there's a market available. When we developed the Palms Country Club a few years ago in Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, we saw that there was a facility (for that) within the area, based on the population, and younger people moving toward the south," explained Mendoza.

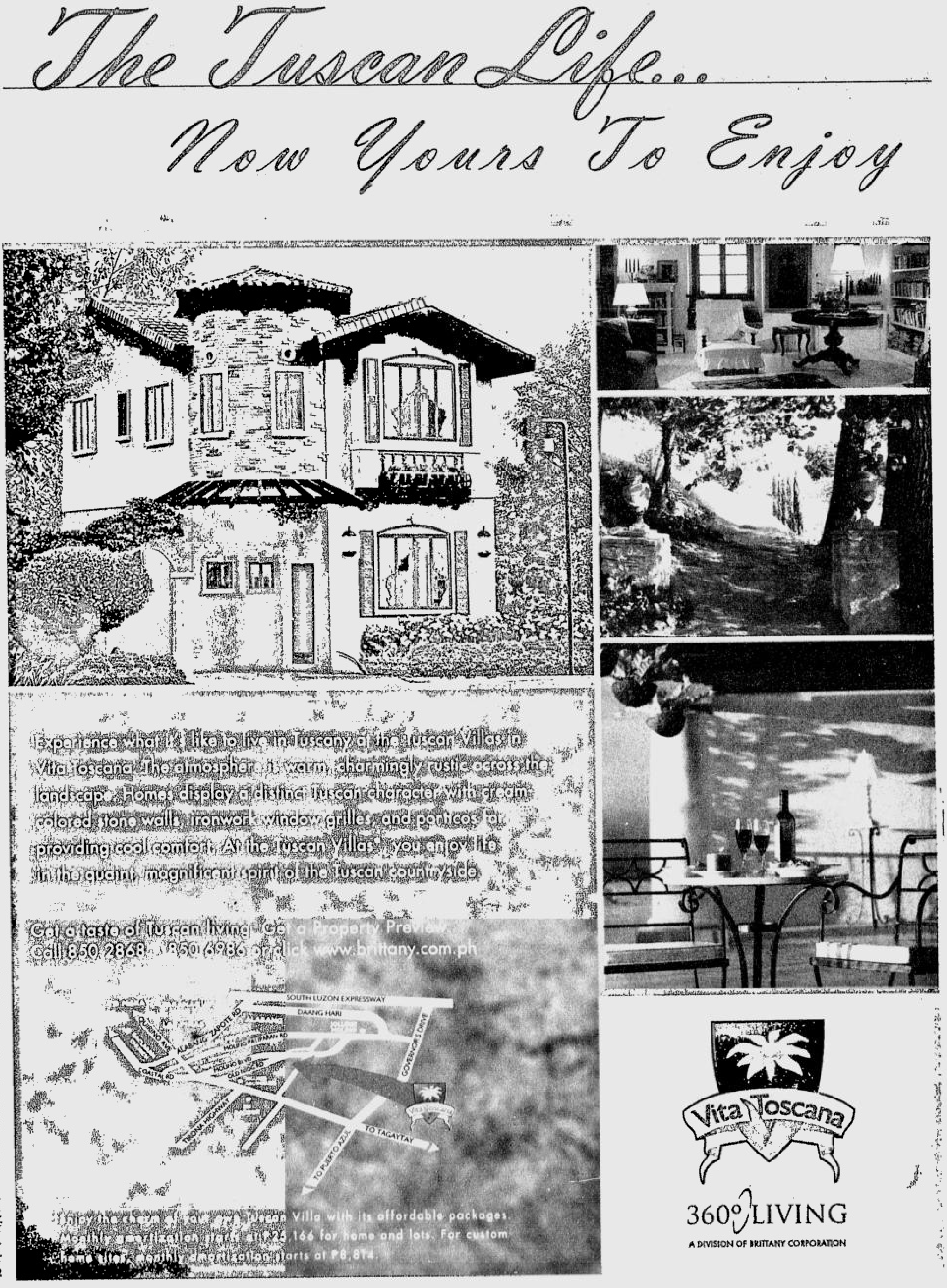
The Palms Country Club is the first leisure club of Filinvest.

"In Timberland, we see that there's a growing population, a market for young families. There's a residential market that captures the people from the east' and the north," she added.

Apart from the scenic view of the elevated sports club, Filinvest plans to add lush vegetation and landscaped terrain in its premises.

The club will provide a professional facilitator on a ropes course and a canopy walk for team-building activities. The design of the club's overnight accommodation facilities will have functionally planned units for

9-HECTARE/ B2-2



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UAP Fort Bonifacio induction of officers, members

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

THERE IS A NEW SET OF OFFICERS and member that were inducted recently for the UAP Fort Bonifacio Chapter (also familiarly called UAP Fort Bo). The event was held at the Jumbo Kingdom floating restaurant while it was docked at the Manila Bay.

The event was attended by the officers and members of the UAP Fort Bo Chapter, the UAP national officers headed by current UAP national president Dinky Florentino, guest speaker Butch Valdez, our major sponsor Davies Paints with representative John Stephen T. Chan, as well as representatives from our other sponsors.

Making a difference

Before I became involved with the chapter activities, I used to wonder why people volunteer with this kind of service that has no pay, is time consuming and is not without pressure.

Some, I believe, do join organizations such as UAP because they are obliged to be able to renew their provisional licenses. Some are in it for the prestige. But there are those who believe that they do join because they can make a difference.

Personally, for me it's all of the above. I only discovered the real joy when I became involved with the chapter activities two years ago. There is a familiar kind of fulfillment with every achievement. And the more people are involved, the greater the fulfillment is. It's a lot of hard work. But it is well worth it.

In my farewell message as former chapter president, I mentioned that I have two reasons to smile about. First, I now will have more time for myself and can pursue other passions.

Secondly, I will be turning over my responsibilities to a highly dynamic and capable team of architects to be headed by architect Jason Ng with their vision being "Architects for Others."

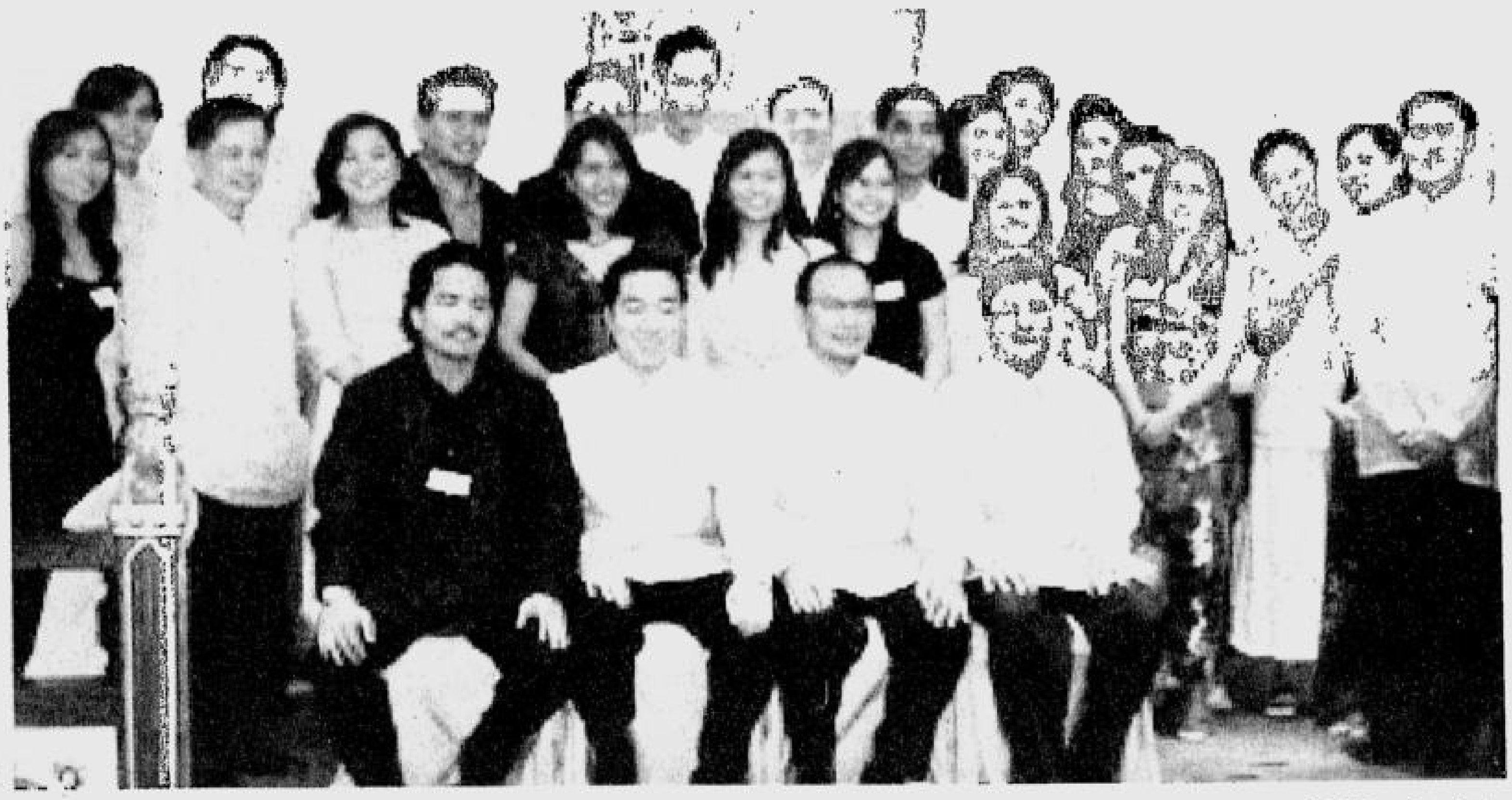
Educational scholarships

Ng, 32 years old, has been a practising architect and builder for the past 10 years. He is the president of Art+Form Builders Inc. He has also been active in the chapter activities since it was established nine years ago. There are other mainstays who had continuously been active and supportive in the various endeavors of the chapter.

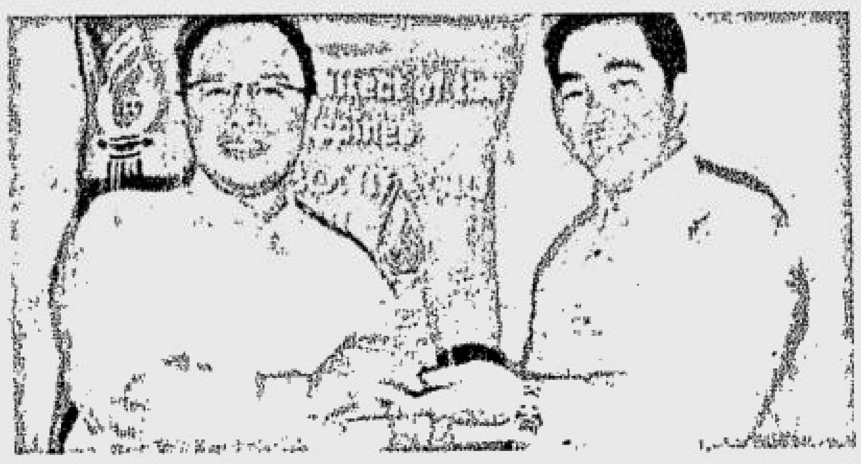
Architect Ng suggested as part of the program to assist deserving architecture students to be able to complete their studies through educational scholarships.

I should also mention that the different architectural organizations like the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) and the Philippine Institute of Architects (PIA) has now merged to form one organization, the Integrated and Accredited Professional Organization of Architects (Iapoa). This move would better regulate and improve the standards of architectural practice.

So we would like to call architects who wish to make a difference to join us. Be a member and participate in the chapter activities and form part of our family.



UAP Fort Bonifacio members joined the officers in the center stage.



UAP Fort Bonifacio past president Architect Toti De Guzman gives way to Architect Jason Ng.

How to make your hardwood furniture last a lifetime

FURNITURE IS CRAFTED FROM wood that is carefully dried, retaining just enough moisture for the furniture to properly acclimate to the relative humidity in your home. The wood continues to exchange moisture with the air, shrinking and expanding in response to changes in humidity and in a climate like in our country, this fluctuation can wreak havoc on your hardwoods.

It is surprisingly simple to protect and enhance hardwood's natural beauty—all it needs is some tender loving care.

Here are some helpful hints on the care of your furniture from Ortigas Home Depot.

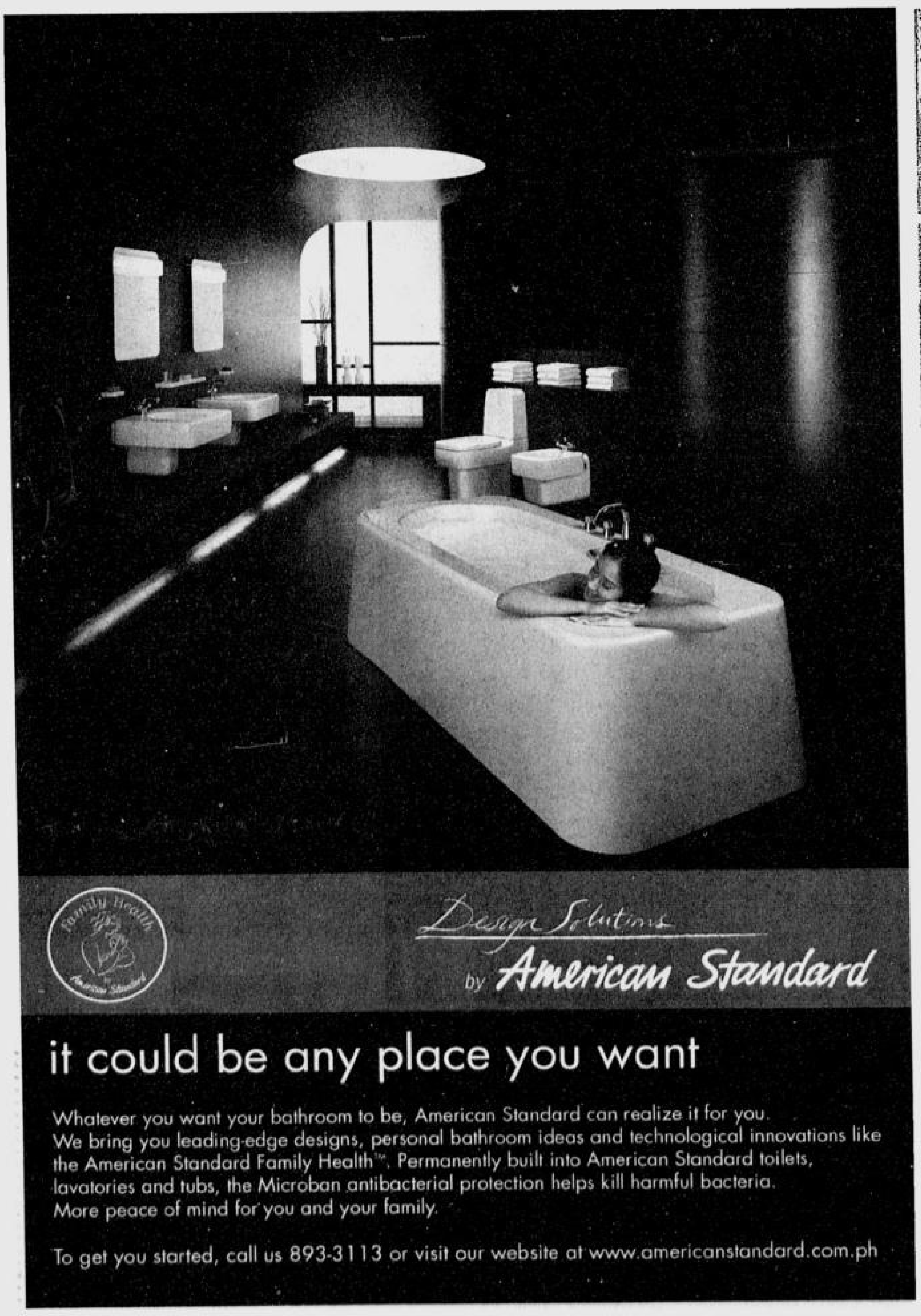
- Read the manufacturer's care directions carefully and keep them for future reference.
- Dust with a soft cloth by following the grain pattern of the wood: use an old T-shirt or cloth nappy.
- Dust often to remove everyday particles from wood surfaces. Before dusting, moisten cloth lightly with a spray product—a dry cloth can leave hardline scratches on the finish.
- Surfaces can be cleaned with a mild alkaline soap and water. Use the suds on a damp sponge or cloth, but be sure to pretest the solution on an out-of-sight section to make sure that it doesn't damage the finish. Dry immediately with a soft cloth and buff lightly, following the grain.
- Wood finishes benefit from an occasional waxing or polishing. A paste wax can be applied every six to 12 months. Remove old wax first with a mild nonalkaline soap and water solution.
- Avoid waxing urethane-finished furniture. Waxing these surfaces causes them to gather dust and dirt rather than repel it.
- Unless your furniture has a new "super finish" to protect it, use coasters to prevent spills, stains and damage from hot dishes. Blot all spills immediately.
- Keep solvents, alcohol, nail polish and polish removers away from your furniture surfaces.
- When dusting, always lift lamps and other objects. Don't slide them across the furniture's surface.
- Always lift furniture to move it—don't drag.
- Open and close doors, drawers and lids gently.
- Don't expose hardwood furniture to continuous direct sunlight. Draw the curtains occasionally.
- For audio and visual entertainment appliances, always give careful consideration to space in the room. Keep it simple when installing coaxial cable, speaker cable, phone jacks, computer ports and outlets.
- Wherever you install a TV monitor, always position the screen away from unshaded windows to avoid glare.
- Store all your DVDs, cassette and videotapes away from extremes of temperature and direct sunlight.

Furniture sale

Ortigas Home Depot is holding the Great Home Furnishing Sale until Sept. 30. At its second floor of Ortigas Home Depot is a 6,000-square-meter furniture center that showcases a wide array of furniture and appliances at special discounted prices.

Participants of the Great Home Furnishing Sale include Bed Center, Blims Fine Furniture, Contempo Designs, Evoluce Designs, Index Furniture, Interior Design Options (IDO), Loft Details, Modas Lamps Collection, Modufit Inc. and Victoria Interiors.

Ortigas Home Depot located at No. 1 Dona Julia Vargas Ave., Barangay Ugong, Pasig City, is open every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.



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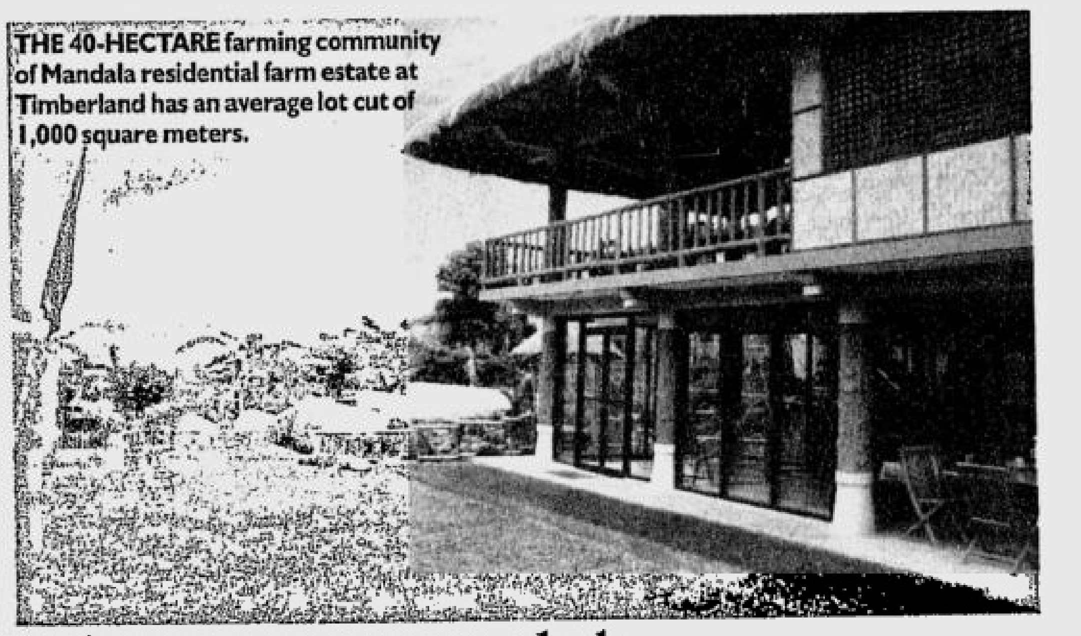


THE 40-HECTARE farming community of Mandala residential farm estate at Timberland has an average lot cut of 1,000 square meters.

9-hectare sports club . . .

From page B2-1

corporate functions.

Situated in a relatively uninhabited area, Timberland's nature and sports club is a 15-minute drive from Batasan, Quezon City.

Self-contained community

Filinvest's master-planned community, Timberland Heights is a 677-hectare community town designed to be self-contained. It is situated 480 meters above sea level.

To be constructed here are a town center, police and fire stations, schools, hospitals, a post office and other community facilities. To maintain a low population density, the developer plans to maintain roughly 4,000 to 7,000 families.

Project group head Albert Morales said the Timberland area is where residents could go back to the basics, such as engaging in organic farming and embarking on nature trips.

Filinvest has also opened in the area Mandala Residential Farm Estate, a 40-hectare farming community with lot cuts averaging 1,000 sq m.

An agro-forestry center, complete with a technology and training center, was put up with the help from UP-Los Baños Institute of Agroforestry.

The Banyan Ridge, on the other hand, is offered for families who prefer smaller farm estates. Here, there would 87 lots with cut sizes of 300 sq m.

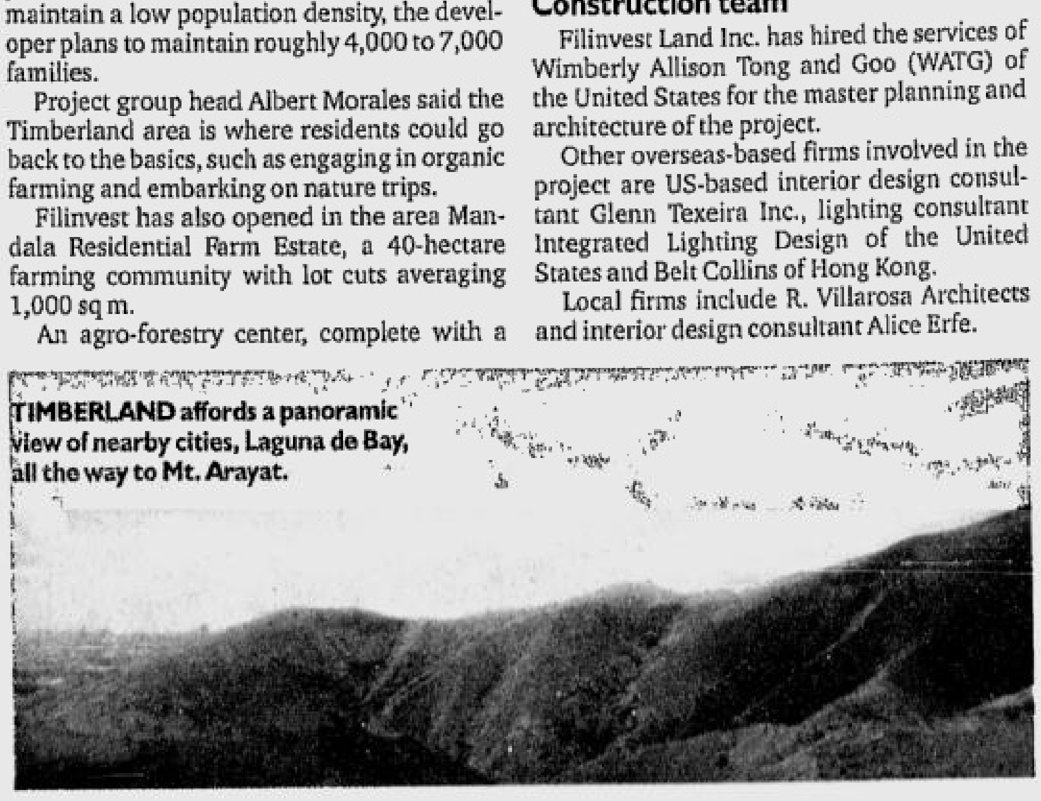
Road constructions are ongoing leading to the Timberland property. For instance, the Batasan-San Mateo extension road and a C-6 alignment road would connect to and traverse the property.

Construction team

Filinvest Land Inc. has hired the services of Wimberly Allison Tong and Goo (WATG) of the United States for the master planning and architecture of the project.

Other overseas-based firms involved in the project are US-based interior design consultant Glenn Texeira Inc., lighting consultant Integrated Lighting Design of the United States and Belt Collins of Hong Kong.

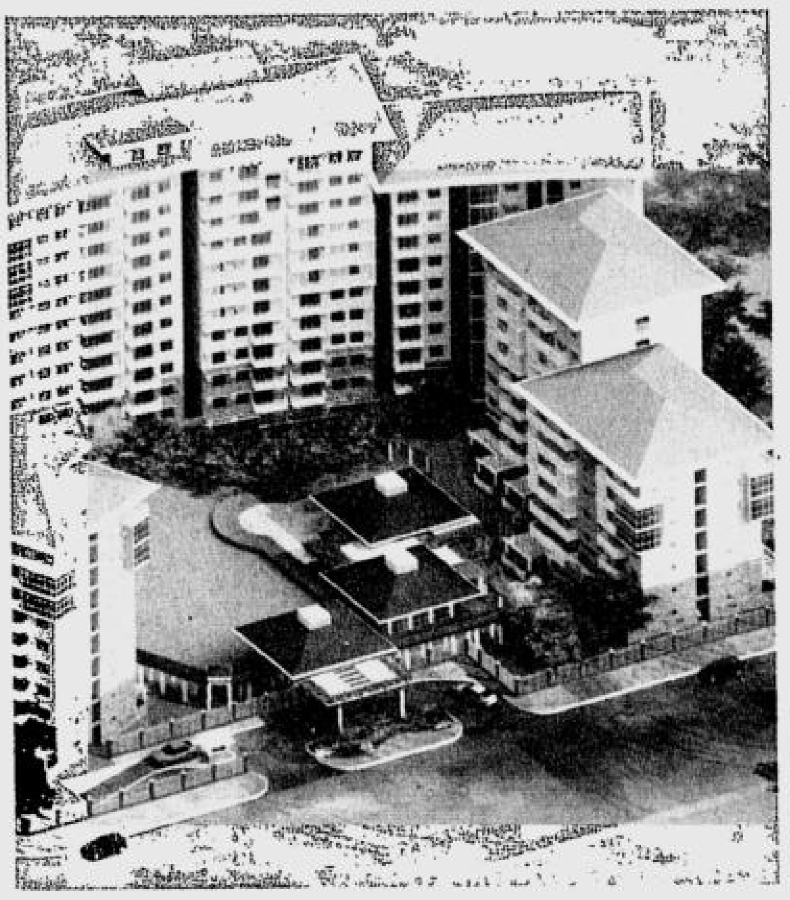
Local firms include R. Villarosa Architects and interior design consultant Alice Erfe.



TIMBERLAND affords a panoramic view of nearby cities, Laguna de Bay, all the way to Mt. Arayat.

More garden views, unit choices at Serendra

STILL BASKING IN THE SUCCESS OF the launch of its District 2 Section B, which sold 80 percent of units in just six months, Ayala Land Inc. and Community Innovations Inc. introduce yet another section of premier residential development Serendra, featuring better views and wider unit choices.



AN ARCHITECT'S perspective of Serendra's District 2 Section C

Serendra's District 2, Section C is expected to stimulate healthy demand with its numerous units with views of the property's expansive greenery and gardens—the unique proposition Serendra is known for. The new section will also offer more competitively priced studio units, aside from the standard one-, two-, and three-bedroom units, making Serendra an even more attractive option to a wider category of homeowners—from single professionals to young couples and medium-sized families.

Future homeowners in the newly opened section will also enjoy all the amenities offered at Serendra, such as the clubhouse, function rooms, swimming pools, children's play and library area, gym and fitness center, covered basketball and badminton courts, game rooms, and more.

With 65 percent of the total property to be dedicated to greenery, residents can enjoy views of lush landscape and themed gardens as they take a stroll or jog around the neighborhood, or even as they simply relax and take in the view from their verandas or bedroom windows. All these render a truly suburban community setting within an urban location.

Moreover, consistent with its theme of greenery and commitment to nurture the environment, Ayala Land and Community Innovations Inc. will start using laminate floors in all units instead of natural wood parquet. The developers consider the offering timely as the recent total ban on logging has led to a shortage of wood material in the local market and in the local construction industry.

Serendra, located in the fast-developing Bonifacio Global City, is the first joint venture between Ayala Land, the country's largest and most respected property developer, and its subsidiary Community Innovations. It is also easily accessible to modern conveniences, such as commercial centers, schools, business centers, and medical facilities, both within and near the Global City.

Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Sales Pavilion located on 26th St., Bonifacio Global City every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 888-0000, e-mail serendra@ayalaland.com.ph, or visit www.serendra.com.

Realty broker's licensure seminar

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industries through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection has scheduled another licensure examination for real estate brokers on Nov. 27. Successful examinees will qualify for licensing as real estate brokers.

In this regard, Urban Institute of Real Estate released today the schedule of its incoming Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review that should be taken for a complete preparation for the DTI-supervised broker's licensure examination.

Schedule

The Tuesday Section is scheduled on Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25, Nov. 8 and 15, while the Thursday Section will be held on Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27, Nov. 3 and 10. The Saturday Section is set on Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5 and 12. All will be held at the same time—1:15 to 6:45 p.m.

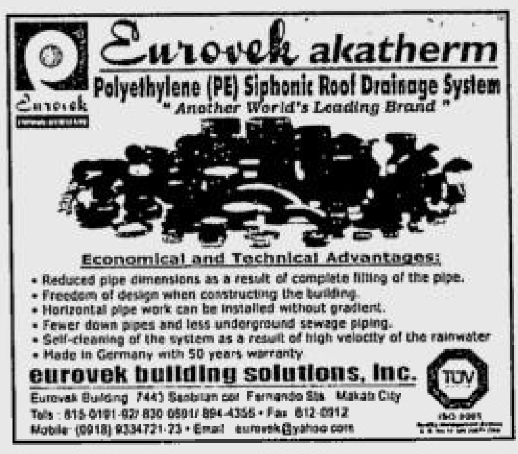
Tuesday and Saturday Sections are scheduled at the Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive corner Theater Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City, while the Thursday Section is set at Max's Restaurant, second level, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

Lecturers

Lawyer Dennis Tablizo, a recognized legal expert on land laws, and engineer Enrico S. Cruz, the same team that produced a record passing rate of 92 percent, will lead experts and authorities in their respective field on the lectures on subjects prescribed by DTI.

Cruz, a licensed real estate consultant was first and eighth placer in the realty appraisers and brokers board exams, respectively. He was recognized as a Real Estate Fellow by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For registration or more information, interested parties may call 681-0928 or text 0916-426-9174 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.



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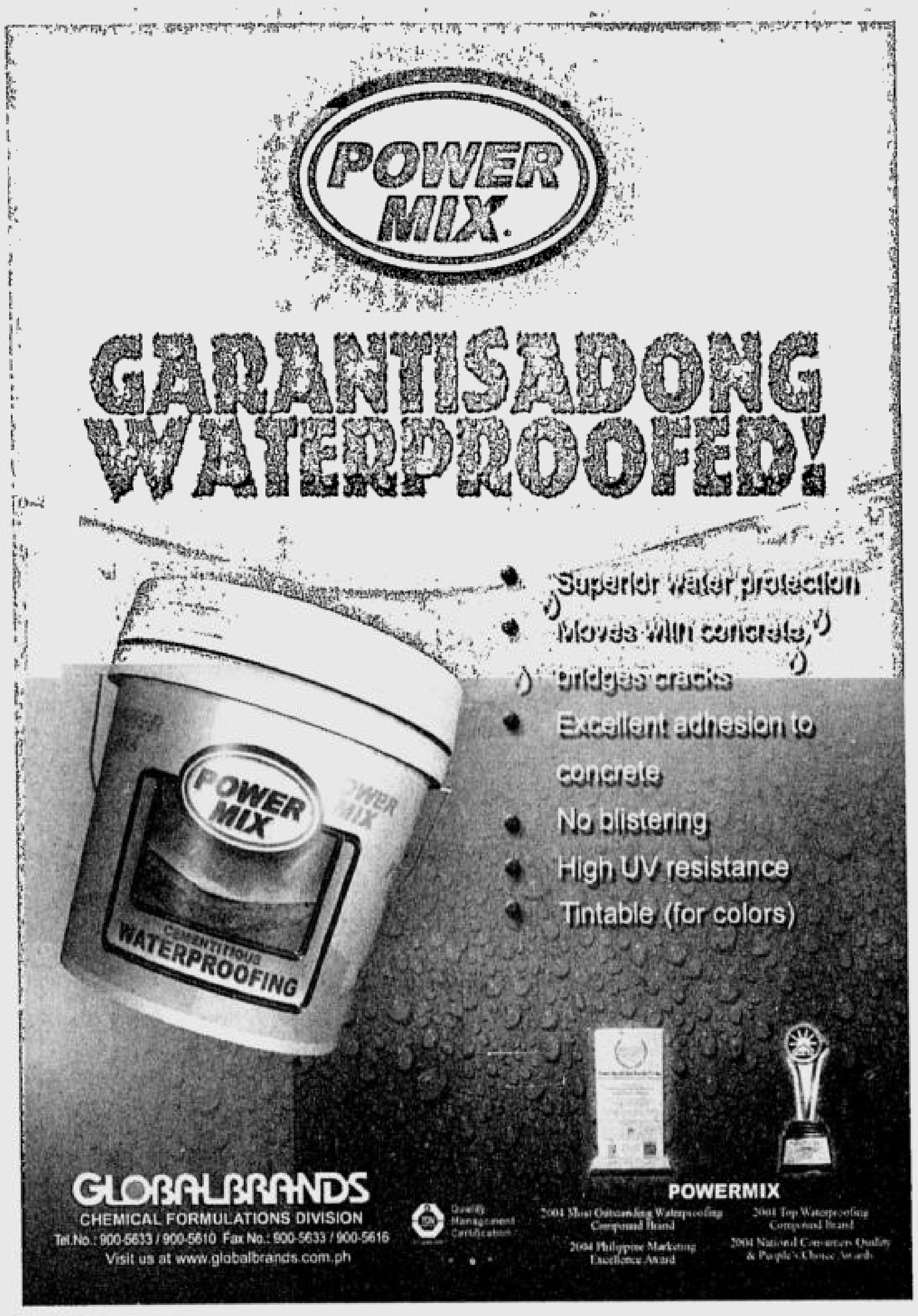

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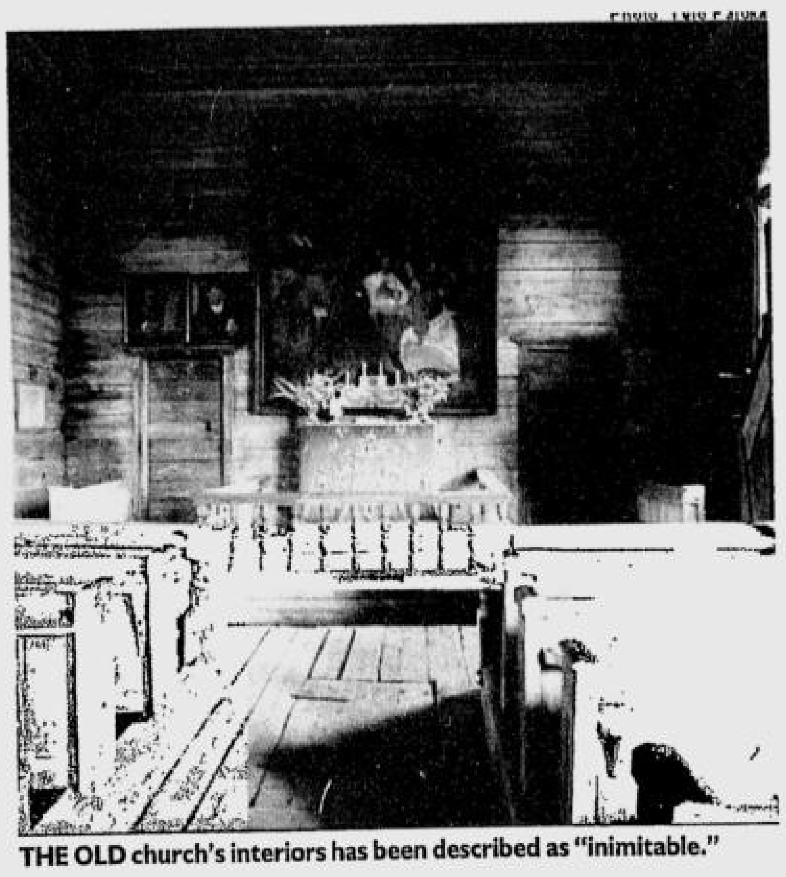
The old church of Petäjävesi


THE OLD church's interiors has been described as "inimitable."

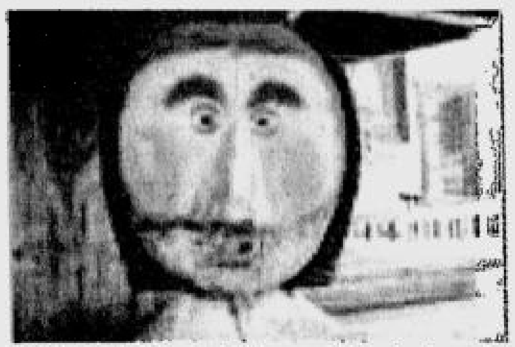
BUILT AS A VILLAGE church, the old church of Petäjävesi, a municipality of Finland, is considered one of the most beautiful examples of Finnish wood architecture.

The well-preserved cruciform church was built in 1763-1764 by carpenter Jaakko Klementinpoika Leppänen who planned to construct a church in the shape of a cross with equal arms.

AMAZING STRUCTURES

The main nave, the central part of a church running lengthwise, and its crossing nave are both approximately 17 meters long and 7 meters broad. The roof consists of high, slightly angular vaults of reddish pine planks with an octagonal dome above the section where the naves meet.

By tradition, the pulpit dates back before the church was even built. In 1779, as a support for the pulpit, painter named Tammelin made his own image of St. Christoforos, giving the entire pulpit a burst of color.


COVERING the pulpit in a splash of color

Leppänen's grandson, Erkki Leppänen, built the bell tower in 1821.

In 1994, after being considered to represent Lutheran churches of the Scandinavian tradition which mix Renaissance with older Gothic elements, the old church of Petäjävesi was included in Unesco's World Heritage List.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

THE CHURCH has been called a beautiful example of Finnish wood architecture.

Taal View Heights holds family day open house

IT WILL SURELY BE A FRESH AND delightful weekend as Taal View Heights will hold its Family Day Open House tomorrow.

Taal View Heights, one of Tagaytay's prime vacation spots, has modern facilities that cater to the whole family. These include cottages, adult and kiddie swimming pools, badminton and basketball courts, coffee shop and even chapels and meditation areas. Everyone in the family can enjoy all these amenities with the majestic view of Taal Lake and Volcano as their backdrop.

Inauguration

Tomorrow, Taal View Heights will be launching more of its modern features with the inauguration of its wellness center and model casitas. The wellness center will surely be a perfect place for total pampering and rejuvenation, while the casitas promise to be the ultimate place for relaxation.

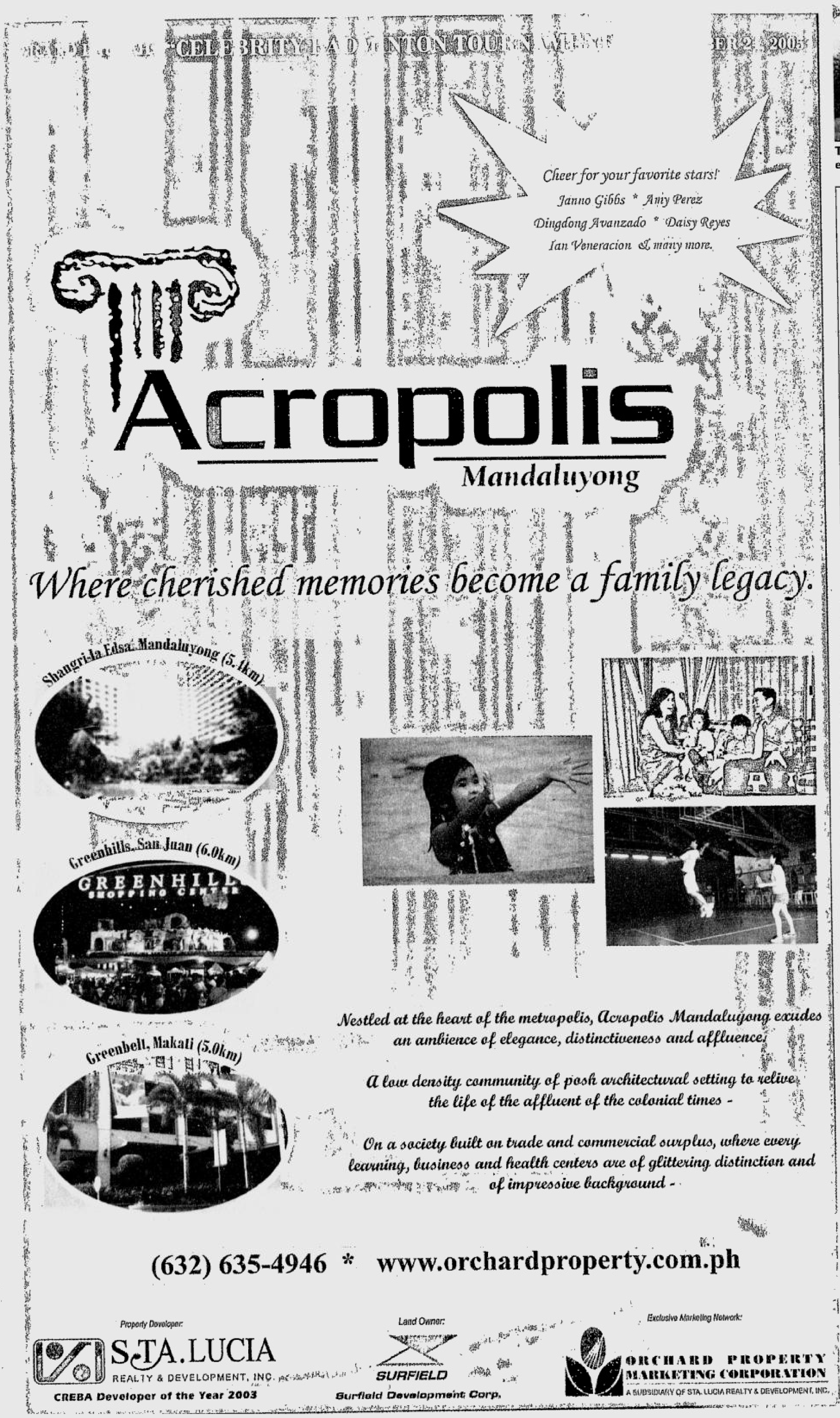
Everyone can come for a family weekend getaway filled with fun activities such as site familiarization tour, horseback riding, swimming and free foot and body massages. A Sunday Mass will also be offered during the open house.

Spend your family bonding moments from a different perspective at Taal View Heights' Family Day Open House. Taal View Heights is just an hour away from Manila.

For more details, please call 811-6420, 830-2179, 0917-828-5449 or e-mail inquiry@ledesco.com. You may also visit www.taalviewheightscom.

MAHOGANY Villas

MAHOGANY VILLAS HOUSING UNITS IN CALAMBA
Mahogany Construction and Development Corp. expects to turn over some 300 housing units to home buyers this coming Christmas. Phase 1 of the Mahogany Villas in Calamba comprising 526 units are expected to be completed this year, while Phase 2 consisting of 700 more units will take off in 2006. Company president Giovanni J. Olivares (left) shakes hands with De la Salle University basketball player Franz S. Pumaren representing Chodvalle Development Inc., after signing a contract for the design, supply and construction of basketball courts for the housing project. Among the other amenities of the project are a chapel, a clubhouse, grand entrance gate and landscaped parks.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PROPERTY

First tower of Residences at Greenbelt 31% complete

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE country's premier residential address right in the heart of Greenbelt is right on track and well within target.

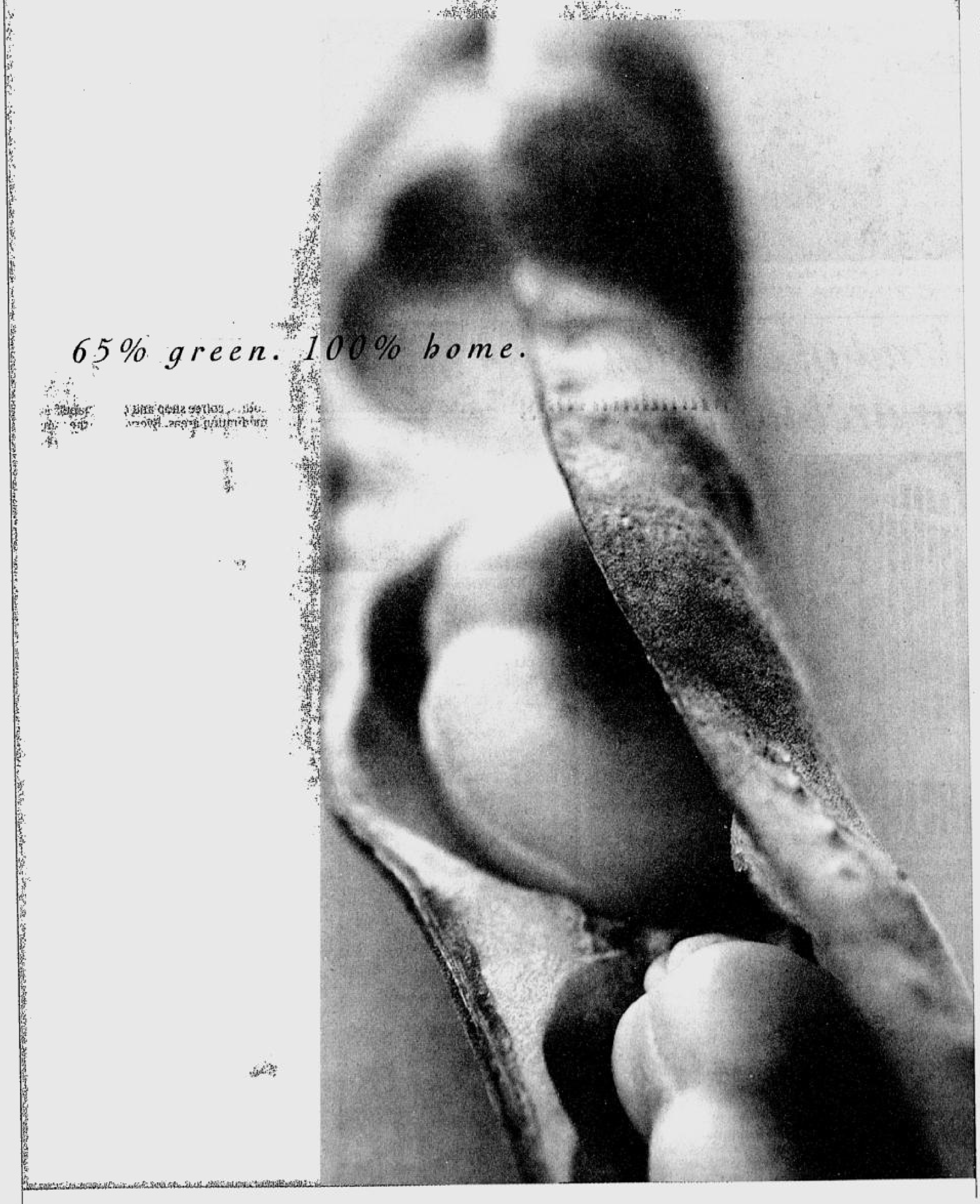
Laguna Tower, the first tower of the highly anticipated The Residences at Greenbelt, has reached 1 million safe manhours early July, making it 31 percent complete. Construction and concrete pouring is already at the 28th floor.

World-class consultants

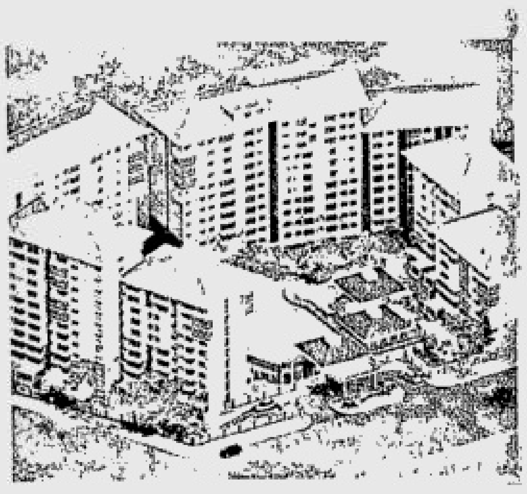
The Laguna Tower is positioned to maximize views of the panoramic Laguna hills and bay. With 48 floors, it is a collaboration of world-class consultants in architecture, engineering and building safety. The construction team is headed by EEI Corp. (general contractor) and Design Coordinates Inc. (project manager). The finished building will later on be managed by Ayala Property Management Corp.

The Residences at Greenbelt is the only residential condominium located within the Greenbelt complex, thus offering its residents the best of the contemporary Greenbelt

FIRST/B3-3

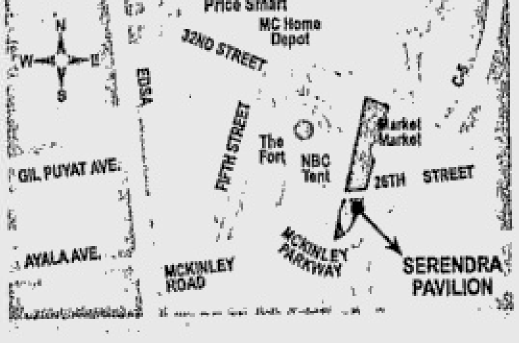


HOME, GREEN, HOME



The concrete jungle can be an unforgiving habitat. But with Serendra, a low-density residential project jointly developed by Community Innovations, Inc. and Ayala Land, Inc., the green, green grass of home no longer has to be confined to the city limits. With over 65% of its 12 hectares dedicated to greenery, Serendra radiates a freshness more commonly associated with the suburbs. Located in the Bonifacio Global City, it is less than 5 minutes away from the central business district of Makati. Coupled with residential units that feature the marriage of Filipino warmth with European masterplanning, an extensive list of amenities and facilities is tirelessly maintained by the Ayala Property Management Corporation. Serendra offers families more than just room to grow. It also gives them time to be together. And being together is what homes are all about.

Email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph
or visit www.serendra.com
Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, everyday from 9am to 8pm.
HLURB LTS Nos: 10412, 10464 and 10482



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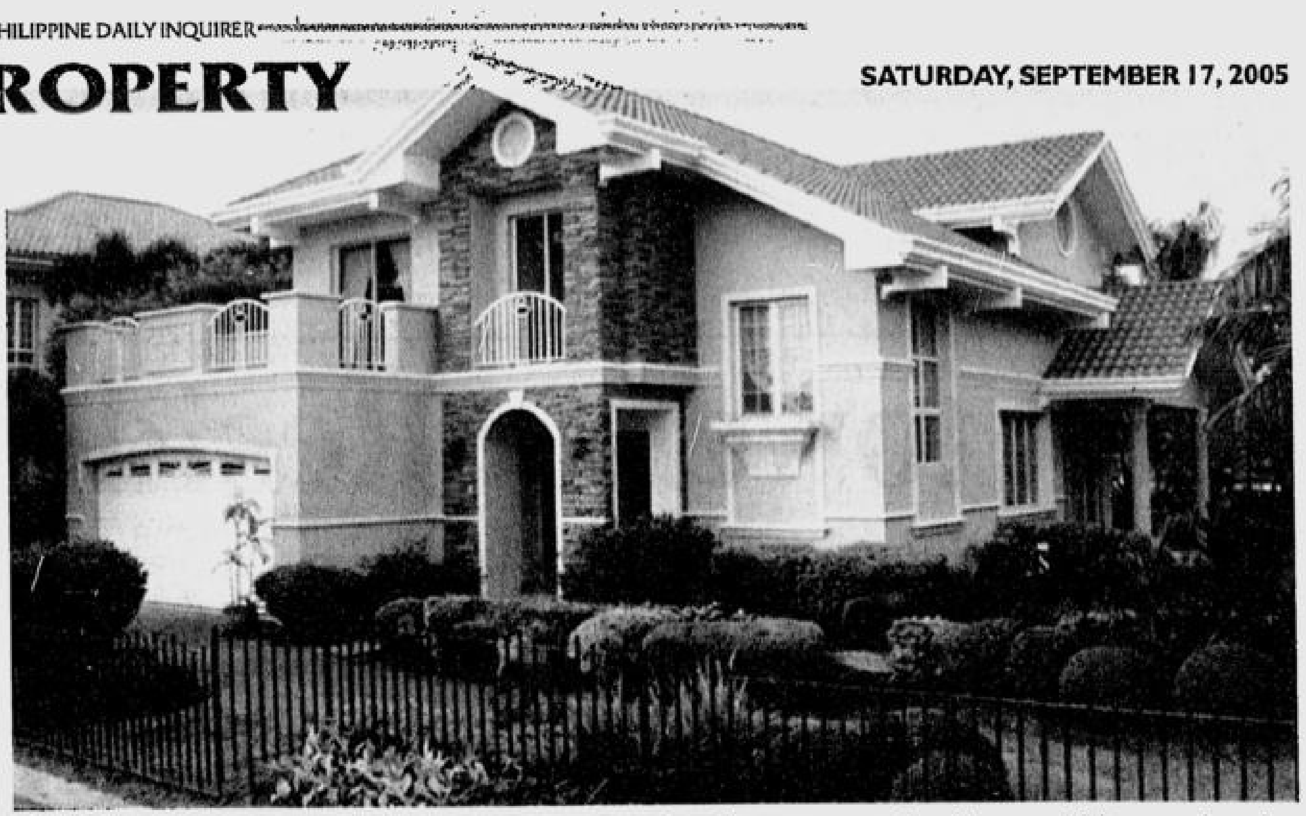
Approximately 12 verdant, sprawling hectares in one of the most accessible areas in the metropolis. This suburban sanctuary in the city holds the promise of more time with your kids. The possibility of easy escape from the hurly-burly of the business world. Serendra is more than just a prime piece of property. It is fertile ground where your family can grow.

Serendra
An AYALA Community

65% greenery also means only 35% of the property is available for residence (less in fact, since more reservations are being made as you read this.) Contact or visit us and make a reservation today. Call ***889-9557 to 60.*** *Not doing so might leave you 120% sorry.*

Caribbean-inspired living at Brittany's Island Park



THE DESIGN of the Alpinia model takes advantage of Island Park's warm sun and cool breeze with its veranda and wide windows.

ALL OF US, ESPECIALLY FAMILIES WITH growing children, dream of living in a comfortable, elegant and inviting home with an island resort theme; bright sunshine tempered by cooling breezes throughout the day; and beautiful sunsets that turn into cool evenings. Also included is a home with wide-open spaces enhanced by landscaped greenery and colorful flowers; first-rate sports and leisure facilities laid out among play parks and walkways lush with foliage; and the happy sounds of kids at play in safety and security, surrounded by fresh, unpolluted environs.

But realizing that dream around Metro Manila is next to impossible, right? Not anymore. Maverick upscale property trendsetter Brittany Corp., with its roster of master-planned communities inspired by the world's best destinations, is making that dream come true with Island Park in Dasmariñas, Cavite, a collection of villages themed after the charming and breezy Carribean.

ISLAND Park's meandering roads amid tropical fields discourage motorists from overspeeding, thus providing added safety for residents.

Tropical theme influences

Island Park combines tropical theme influences with great outdoor spaces, achieving a rare 45:55 ratio of open space to development areas in a 100-hectare luxury community.

Relaxing in the vast outdoors becomes a pleasant experience as the already verdant landscaping is enhanced with a quaint selection of tropical plants such as coconut trees and palm trees to provide shades, heliconias that cover the landscape with beautiful colors and sweet scents, bamboos that produce a soothing sound of rustling leaves. Beds of white sand complete the ambiance of the island-inspired neighborhood.

Strategic location

The network of highways in the area makes Island Park's location strategic for metro residents, living in a community with the amenities and vistas of an island resort, while being just an easy drive away from business destinations in Makati, Manila and Ortigas, and leisure places like golf courses, beaches and upland retreats in nearby Tagaytay, Laguna and Batangas.

Island Park is accessible from Alabang via Daanghari through Molino-Paliparan Highway, from Makati via South Luzon Expressway through Carmona and Southwoods Exits, from Manila via the Coastal Road from Roxas Boulevard, and from Tagaytay and Batangas through Governor's Drive where it is located.

Island Park will be brought closer to the commercial and business district of Alabang via the soon to open Molino-Paliparan entrance. With the construction already 50 percent complete, you can soon reach Island Park in 20 minutes from Alabang through Molino Boulevard via Daanghari.

WITH ITS CARIBBEAN inspiration, this Island Park residence imparts the feel of being in a luxury tropical resort.

THIS ISLAND Park vista is about living in tropical-themed luxury, amid wide open spaces in the sun, cooled by breezes throughout the day.

Resort-inspired homes

A selection of resort-inspired homes with commanding views of the community's scenic expanses are available at Island Park:

- **Alpinia**, with a floor area of 176 square meters on a 210-sq-m lot ;
- **Aristhea**, a three-bedroom abode with two toilets and baths and floor area of 210 sq m on a 248-sq-m lot;
- **Dianella**, with four bedrooms, four toilets and baths, breakfast nook, auxiliary kitchen and family hall offers the largest living space with a floor area of 260 sq m on a 264-sq-m lot.

Residents of Island Park can find in-house first-class facilities at Club Island, an exclusive leisure club with a man-made lake; and Paseo Park, the sports complex set amid green trails and gardens with a basketball and tennis court already available for use.

A veritable investment and a tropical retreat that is never far from the metro, Island Park suits Filipino who wants a unique abode to come home to. The open spaces and lush landscaping provide a soothing ambiance, a far cry from the toxic environment of the bustling metropolis.

More and more families are starting to build their homes in the tropical-inspired community of Island Park.

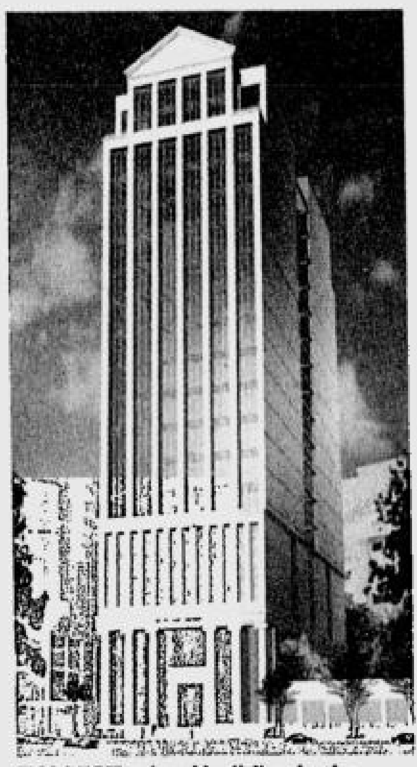
Previews may be arranged by calling 850-6986 and 850-2868 or visit their website at www.brittany-islandpark.com.

A masterly blend of classical and modern architecture

IT USED TO BE THAT WHENEVER school building was mentioned, what came to mind was a monotonous structure devoid of any frills, spartan in appointments, uninspiring and without a soul. In other word, depressing. And this was taking its toll on the quality of education because going to school was oftentimes a drag and not a very pleasant experience.

But all these are changing now. As we step into the 21st century, with the advancement of technology and the proliferation of modern conveniences which make everyday living more comfortable, the notion of a school is no longer the drab box of the past but rather, it is more of an exciting environment that will uplift the student's morale, stimulate his desire for learning and widen his outlook in life.

This is what well-informed educators of today are looking for and this is the new image of school buildings that are being erected nowadays. Topnotch architects are being tapped to create and transform what used to be a totally utilitarian structure into an exciting setting for learning.



TALLEST school building in the Philippines designed by award-winning architect Philip Recto is a combination of classical and modern lines.

DLSU building

One of the oldest and most respected educational institutions in the country, the De La Salle University (DLSU) on Taft Avenue has always taken pride in their excellent academic standard, forward-looking research and active community service.

It is no wonder therefore that when they embarked on constructing their latest school building, the General Education/Asia-Pacific Center for Teachers Education and Development (Acted) Building, they commissioned the best mind to design it and the top professional they approached is no other than the renowned architect Philip H. Recto who has designed a number of outstanding educational institutions all over the country.

Tallest school

Well-known for creating high-rise buildings, Recto's design turned out to be a 20-story school building, rising to a height of 90 meters measuring from the street level, thus making it the tallest school building in the country.

This configuration is arrived at after a careful study to maximize the potentials of the land which is now so expensive and scarce especially in this prime Taft Avenue location.

And a high-rise school building actually makes sense as it is more efficient with shorter walking distances to reckon with, so unlike the low-rise, sprawling campus setup wherein a lot of tiresome walking is required, and with the hot sun and inclement weather to contend with yet.

Masterly blend

In consideration of the school's dual desire to preserve the existing neo-classical architecture of the De La Salle University campus as well as to have a more forward-looking structure, Recto came out with a design that is a masterly blend of both the classical and modern.

This he did by retaining the beautiful form and proportion of classical architecture but infusing modern lines into it and using the latest materials such as unitized glass curtain walls and composite aluminum claddings.

In his design, Recto adopted a green and white color composition, this being the school color, and also provided predominantly vertical lines in the façade which signify the pursuit of lofty aspirations. The building is topped by a triangular pediment, the same signature feature that can be seen on all other De La Salle buildings in the campus.

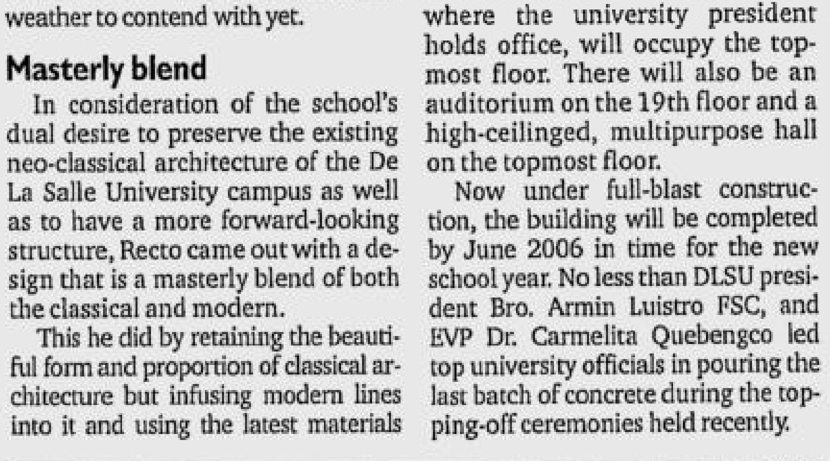
With uplighting illumination at night, the structure will certainly become a towering landmark in Manila when dusk falls. And in the interiors, bright colors are used to portray youthfulness, vibrancy and dynamism.

100 classrooms

With a total floor area of 28,000 square meters, the new De La Salle University building will have the admission office, institutional testing and evaluation office and a community counseling center at the ground floor. It will also have a library with cybernook at the second floor, parking for 120 cars on the third to sixth floors, and more than 100 air-conditioned classrooms and faculty rooms on the upper floors. A cafeteria is also located on the sixth floor and a chapel the 15th floor.

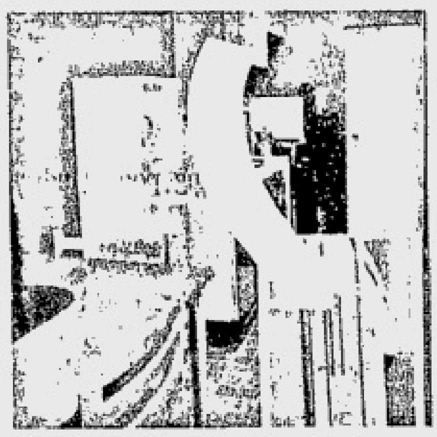
The College of Education will occupy the 17th and 18th floors while the Acted on the 19th to 20th floors. The system offices, where the university president holds office, will occupy the topmost floor. There will also be an auditorium on the 19th floor and a high-ceilinged, multipurpose hall on the topmost floor.

Now under full-blast construction, the building will be completed by June 2006 in time for the new school year. No less than DLSU president Bro. Armin Luistro FSC, and EVP Dr. Carmelita Quebengco led top university officials in pouring the last batch of concrete during the topping-off ceremonies held recently.



MODERN front lobby of DLSU's latest building

THE KITCHEN area before the makeover



HANDYMAN provided the cabinet doors, hinges, handles and flat fluorescent fixtures for a clutter-free kitchen.

Handyman home center, paints help add drama to a home makeover

AFTER SURVIVING A FIRE THAT RAZED down their house, 27-year-old Christine or "Tintin" was content in slowly rebuilding their lives in a lot in Villamor Airbase. She then came across a promo by Summit Publication's Real Living Magazine inviting readers to write why their home deserves a makeover.

Tintin grabbed the chance. And the makeover happened with a little help from Do It Best Paints and furnishings from Handyman Do It Best Home Center.

Sharing the small two-bedroom house are Aunt Adelfa, brother Ding, nanny Meldy and Tintin's 11-month-old son Christor Matthew. Husband Nestor Jr. or Popoy, a seaman, comes home only once a year.

"I wanted the house to look better, paint the concrete walls, sort out the clutter, add new furnishings," says Tintin. "I also wanted to child-proof the house and make it more colorful and baby-friendly," she adds. "I also wanted to surprise Popoy."

Adding depth, drama

Real Living's Aouie Lao and her team concentrated on repainting the walls to add depth and drama. The walls were painted with a light yellow-lime green combination and tomato red and the façade with an off-white hue. They also sorted out the clutter and added bric-a-brac, among other furnishings.

Together with other partner establishments, Handyman Do It Best Home Center sponsored all paint and painting materials, crystal-metal coffee table; doors, hinges and handles for kitchen cabinets; flat fluorescent fixture (for under the kitchen cabinet); the ceiling light-fan, hanging drop lights for the dining area and light bulbs. The play of paint colors combined with the perfect lighting made the house appear bigger, cleaner and more attractive.

Paint center

"Handyman has almost everything one needs for home improvement," Aouie, who did the shopping for Tintin, said. "But I found the Paint Technology area rather interesting."

Handyman's fully automated Paint Center (using the exclusive brand Do it Best Select Paints, the No. 1 paint manufacturer in the United States) has the Photo Spectrometer Eye that scans and produces the exact colors that customers want.

"Do it Best Select Paints are smoother and lump-free making the application easier. And in case you miscalculated the amount of paint you were to use in a project, you could easily go back, give the code and not worry about mismatching," Aouie said. The state-of-the-art database system not only measures the color combinations but also files the customer's information in case of repeat orders.

For Tintin, the makeover was more than a redoing of their house. "It means a lot especially during this time when we are slowly rebuilding our lives after the fire," she revealed.

(Paint centers are available at Handyman Do It Best Center in Robinsons Place Pioneer, and select Handyman Do It Best Home Center branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, and Festival Mall. These service stations offer free computerized paint mixing service for Do It Best Select Paints.)

THE ALCANTARA FAMILY. Nestor Jr. and Christine Alcantara with only son, Christor Matthew

Bay Garden a private urban paradise

WE ALL WISH WE COULD HAVE FREQUENT vacations. Unfortunately, the demands of earning a daily living make it hard for us to do so. But what if you can have an everyday vacation right in the comfort of your own home? If you lived at Federal Land's Bay Garden, you can.

Imagine waking up to watch the sun slowly come up from the bay, filling the peaceful room with light and warmth as you listen to the soft humming of birds playing in the lush gardens below. Imagine lying down peacefully in an indoor jacuzzi after a day of work, your stress melting away as the warm temperature and relaxing water pressure ease your tiredness.

With its quaint charm and scenic resort setting, Bay Garden is a luxurious home and vacation spot in one. This posh gated sanctuary lies in the heart of Metropolitan Park, a breathtaking master-planned community that allows you to enjoy cosmopolitan excitement without the problems of congested streets, polluted surroundings and a deafening environment.

It offers a tranquil atmosphere with a picturesque Manila Bay sunset and mesmerizing skyline view of Makati and Manila. And with developments for a centralized sewage treatment, wider road networks and new sanitation system, this community is truly Manila's secret urban paradise.

Architectural excellence

The three completed towers of Bay Garden and the soon-to-rise Mactan tower feature architectural excellence. The towers are characterized by a minimalist design that radiates timeless elegance. "Every detail of the unit has been thoroughly designed to give owners esthetically pleasing homes without compromising its efficiency," said Ramon H. Aldaba, Federal Land's first vice president of marketing.

Experiencing tranquility on a daily basis is a given, as Bay Garden affords residents not just living space, but breathing space as well. The vast open spaces, combined with the condominiums' low-density ratio, ensure a freeing setting. Bay Garden provides the freedom to move and produces an invigorating ambiance.

Blissful relaxation

Stress simply melts away as unit owners enjoy serene activities like a leisurely stroll around the tree-lined streets, a relaxing picnic at the lush gardens, or a therapeutic dip at the heated pools. It's a private sanctuary that also provides inner peace.

Bay Garden residents can always come home to a day of pampering and unwinding with the mini putting green, steam room, resort-style swimming pool, landscaped sunbathing deck, a 15-meter heated indoor pool with jacuzzi, children's wading pool and playground, a full-service gym, tennis and basketball courts, and an outdoor barbecue area.

"Since unit owners don't have the tedious responsibilities of maintenance and repair, all they need to focus on is enjoying their blissful relaxation," Aldaba said.

Intelligently planned

The intelligently planned community has its many conveniences since Bay Garden is situated near hospitals, a bank and a school.

ARTIST'S digital rendition of Bay Garden

Residents can have unlimited dining, recreational and shopping options with the community's proximity to the Le Pavilion, the Blue Wave strip mall and the soon-to-open Mall of Asia.

Providing residents ultimate comfort and security, Bay Garden is a private haven that is not only pleasing to the senses, but also gives them a well-deserved inner peace.

Model units are available for viewing onsite at Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa Extension, Pasay City. For inquiries about Bay Garden, please call 551-0888, or log on to www.baygarden.com.ph.

First . . .

From page B3-1

the best of the contemporary Greenbelt lifestyle. From books, music and movies, to salons, spas and health clubs, all are just within the comfortable confines of home.

Its enviable location also ensures residents easy access to the Makati Central Business District. This early, it has already attracted a strong following, acquiring impressive take-ups of its two- and three-bedroom units.

Building features

Among the Laguna Tower building features are its 24-hour security, 100 percent backup power and a pedestrian bridgeway connection to Greenbelt 2. The amenities of Laguna Tower, exclusive to its buyers, include a lap pool, children's pool, children's outdoor play area, gym and social hall.

A typical floor plan in Laguna Tower has six spacious two-bedroom and three-bedroom units, with floor areas ranging from 118 to 190 square meters.

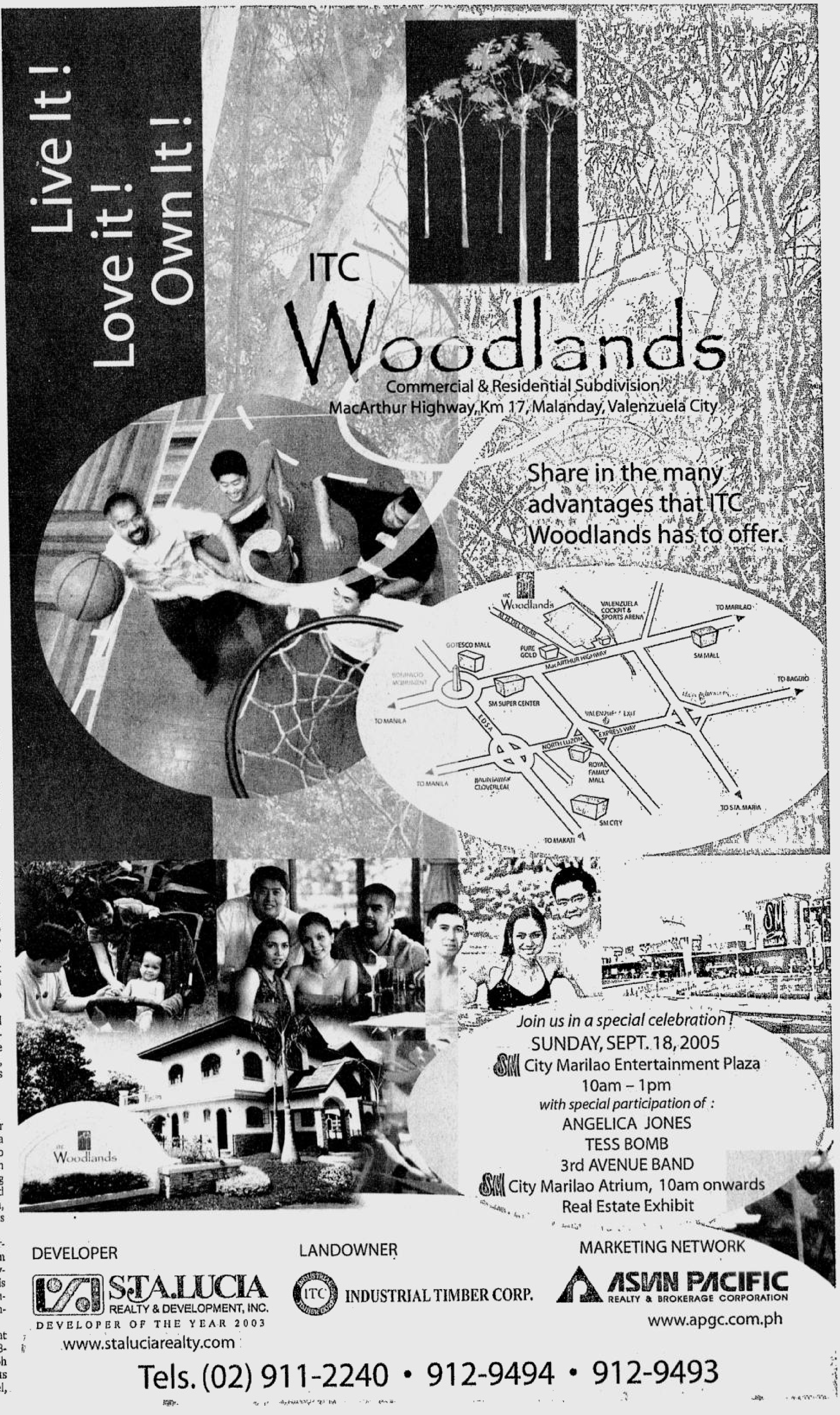
Similar developments can be expected with the launch of The Residences at Greenbelt's second tower, San Lorenzo. There are now more units to suit a wider range of needs, ranging from one- to three-bedroom units plus a limited number of one-bedroom lofts.

More amenities

Upon completion of the San Lorenzo Tower and the podium, residents of both the Laguna and San Lorenzo Towers will also be able to make use of more amenities in the podium level which will include another swimming pool, kiddie pool, game room, indoor and outdoor play areas, a fully equipped gym, spa, mini theater and a grand social hall as well as more landscaped areas.

With construction in full swing, what is currently an urban settler's mere dream will soon be transformed into reality. Developed by Ayala Land Inc., The Residences at Greenbelt is indeed a testament of the company's continuous commitment to offer projects of the highest standards, increasing its value over time.

To learn more about The Residences at Greenbelt, please call the sales hotline at 728-7000, e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing at the 3rd level, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center.



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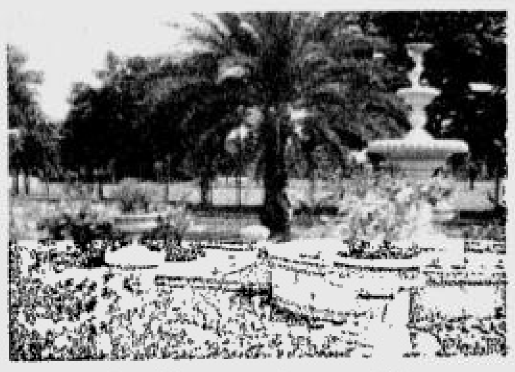

GARDEN trellises spread around Valenza complete its Italian-inspired landscape.

Finding value in Crown Asia's latest masterpiece

TO BUILD A SECURE FUTURE FOR themselves and their family—this serves as the aspiration for many to tirelessly strive in their respective careers. After years of tedious labor, the upwardly young mobile couples only deserve the best rewards of life: reaping the fruits of worthwhile investments, getting the most value for their money and finding complacence in the community in which they reside.

Celebrating a decade of leading the real estate industry, Crown Asia continues to build master-planned communities to fulfill the lifelong dreams of countless families.

Another milestone in the development of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is unveiled as Crown Asia launches its latest development guided by those aspirations of the Filipino family—Valenza.

Unprecedented value

Valenza, the Italian word for "valence" is the chemistry of the elements of style and comfort united in symmetry. It is a themed neighborhood suited for young couples building a good life for their children and singles striving to be on top of their careers. Valenza is indeed a veritable investment with Crown Asia's careful planning and constant innovation in real estate development.

INSPIRED by Mediterranean culture, the dining room evokes a warm ambiance suited for family feasts.

THE GIRL'S bedroom is a cheerful retreat after an afternoon of playing amid Valenza's grounds.

BRINGING an inviting atmosphere into the bedroom are earth tones like café au lait, ecru, auburn and damask.

Neighboring the prime communities of Tagaytay and sharing the same scenic views, an array of home and lot packages at Valenza are available without the same sky-high prices. Truly a community of utmost value, Valenza's convenient and accessible location still offers privacy as an exclusive neighborhood for a limited number of families.

An Italian city

An Italian city in the south, Valenza draws inspiration from Italy's distinct architecture with accents and details which evoke Mediterranean culture. Valenza's Roman inspiration will be evident inside and out.

The interior will feature a domed ceiling for the master's bedroom and dining area, an elegant touch combined with function. Domed ceilings are a classic Italian element of design coupled with ingenuous architecture which allows improved air circulation and creates a sense of flowing space.

Rich Mediterranean hues traditionally seen in Italian homes will be adapted by the homes of Valenza. Bringing a warm and inviting atmosphere are earth tones like café au lait, ecru, auburn and damask. Very Tuscan details will include muted hazel walls and crimson roof tiles.

Breathtaking vistas

At Valenza, Sta. Rosa's fresh breeze can be enjoyed from your own balcony as the view of Mt. Makiling and Tagaytay Ridge greets you.

Garden trellises will bring nature within the home to complement Laguna's verdant greens. The community will be carefully landscaped to complete the comfortable ambiance resembling that of Italy's.

Neighboring conveniences

As various industries in Laguna continue to boom, the area becomes more suited for the growing populace of Sta. Rosa. Residents of Valenza need only walk a short distance to go to neighboring commercial establishments while scenic Tagaytay is a mere 30 minutes away.

Going to bustling corporate and shopping areas of Alabang will only take 10 minutes. Driving for as short as five minutes brings you to the adjacent town of San Pedro with recreational spots like Enchanted Kingdom and Splash Island and the hot springs of Los Baños. The beautiful beaches of Batangas are only a 30-minute drive away.

Valenza is accessible via the Sta. Rosa interchange, SLEX. This very exclusive prime property is located at the heart of Metro Sta. Rosa. It is strategically set near the main road but with enough distance to preserve its serene and quiet atmosphere.

Crown Asia continues "building greater values into your new home" with thoughtful and effective master-planning guided by the five core values they persistently adhere to: greenery, security, choices, serenity and attainability.

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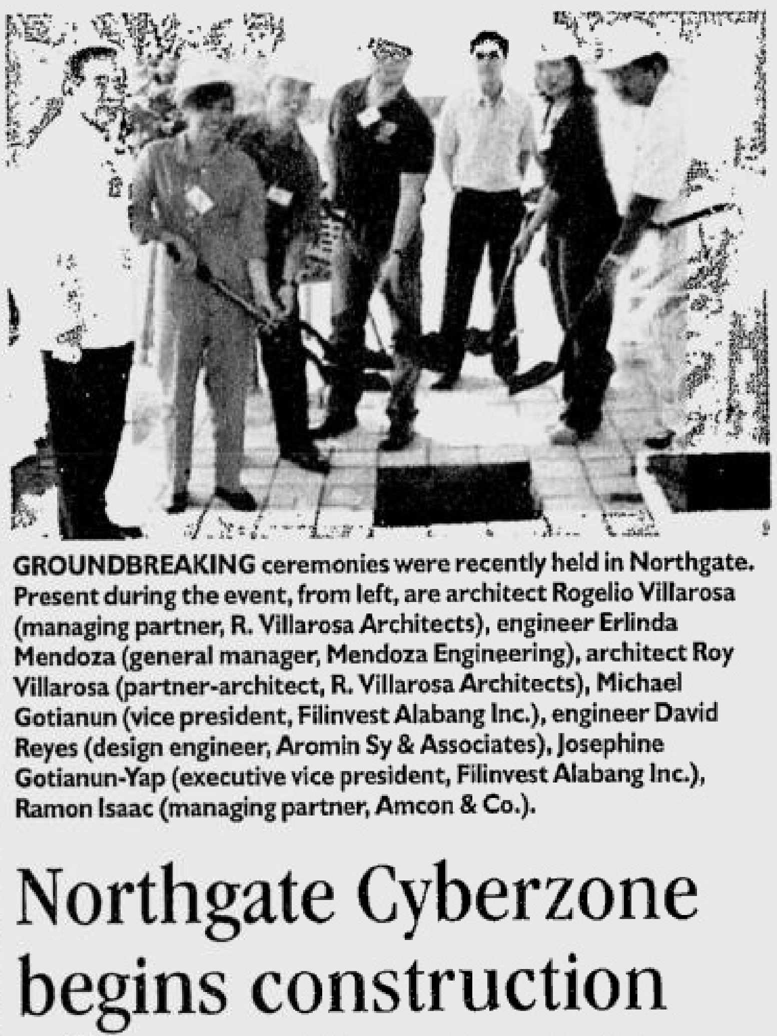

GROUNDBREAKING ceremonies were recently held in Northgate. Present during the event, from left, are architect Rogelio Villarosa (managing partner, R. Villarosa Architects), engineer Erlinda Mendoza (general manager, Mendoza Engineering), architect Roy Villarosa (partner-architect, R. Villarosa Architects), Michael Gotianun (vice president, Filinvest Alabang Inc.), engineer David Reyes (design engineer, Aromin Sy & Associates), Josephine Gotianun-Yap (executive vice president, Filinvest Alabang Inc.), Ramon Isaac (managing partner, Amcon & Co.).

Northgate Cyberzone begins construction of new office building

NORTHGATE Cyberzone, the information technology park in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, is launching another building due for completion in the first quarter of 2006.

The Plaza @A Building, as it is called, will offer six stories of office space for lease with a floor plate of 1,800 square meters. It has been designed and built around the needs of IT-enabled companies and will have the advanced technology features and communications backbone ideal for 24/7 operations.

In June, Northgate welcomed its newest locator, the HSBC Electronic Data Processing Phils. Inc., which set up their eighth global center in the park, an 18,000-square-meter built-to-suit structure.

For inquiries and reservations on office space lease and built-to suits, please call Filinvest Alabang's Business Development-IT Division at 842-6827.

Metro G
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GROUNDBREAKING
Cavite Gov. Irineo Maliksi, left, leads the recent groundbreaking of Metrogate Dasmariñas Phase 4, one of the latest project of Moldex Realty Marketing. Joining the governor are, from left, landowner Armi Sico-Benitez, Dasmarinas councilor Rex Mangubat, Moldex Group president Roy Joseph Vinuya, homeowners association president Violeta Hempel and landowner Willy Benitez.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

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Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super!Countdown

44 days 'til Hollow's eve

cause and effect

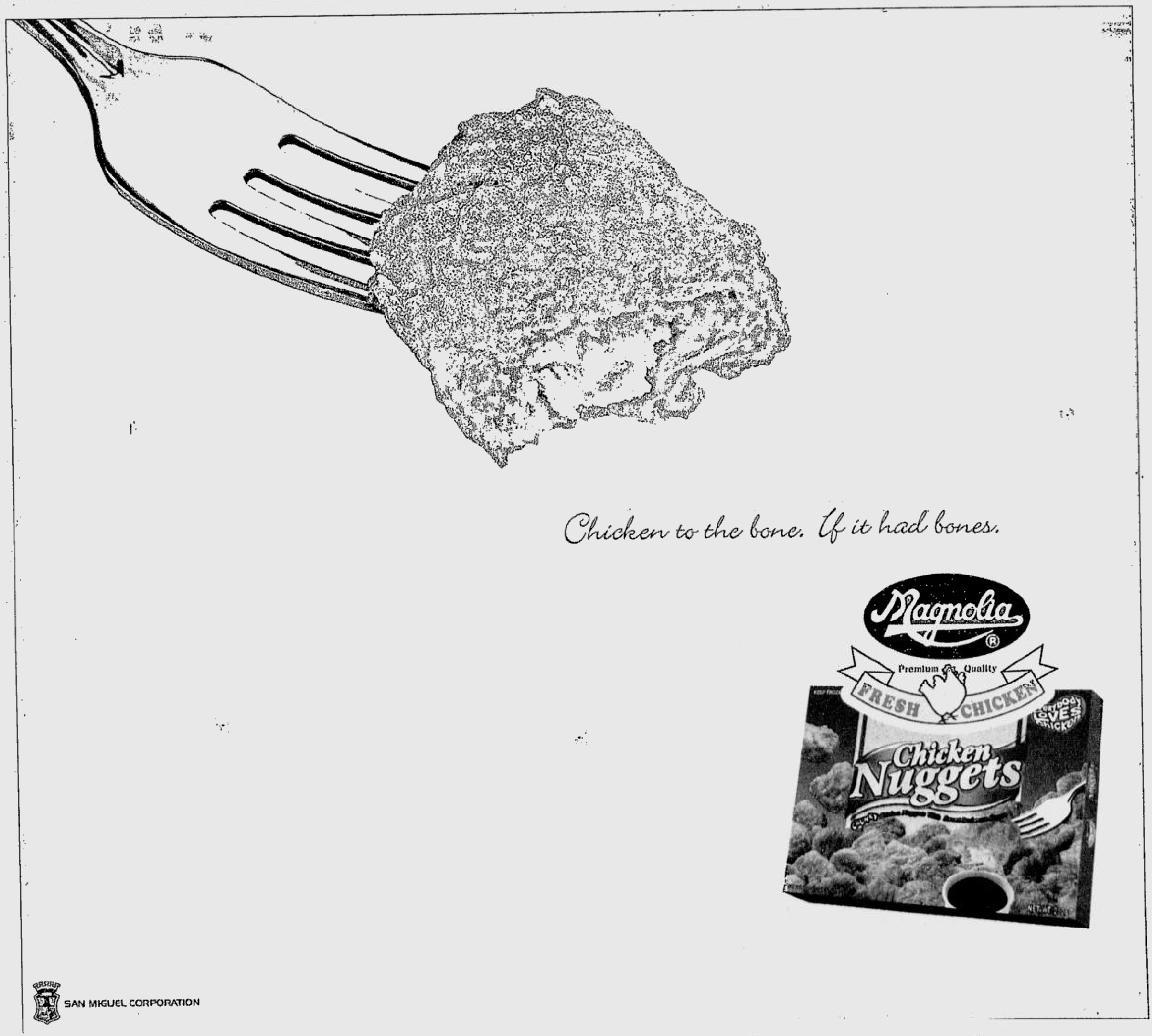
Angel Aquino antipoverty page C2

Lilen Uy's super snapshots page C2

What if Anne Curtis and Angel Locsin saved the tarsiers? page D4

Battle of the A-listers page D1

Photography: ISA LORENZO
Background photographs: JOSE ENRIQUE SORIANO
Hair & Makeup: MARIE CALICA
Produced by CANDY REYES
Cover star: ANGEL AQUINO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KAHIRAPAN Wakasan! (End Poverty Now)

SUPER! scream to end poverty

The white politic

By Troy Bernardo
Photos by Isa Lorenzo

THERE REALLY IS NO MORE excuse. This month, all over the world, people will once again speak out against poverty, a fact of life we face daily in the streets of Manila, something we almost never think of. Add to this our relentless push for larger homes, longer careers and fancier lifestyles—all of which are really nothing but illusion—we've all but forgotten what being Filipino is about, particularly the spirit of *bayanihan*, of brotherhood, of coming together to help, support, or simply be present in someone's time of need.

Fortunately, there are people who haven't lost hope. There are those who believe that someday we will see through the illusions, tire of the glossy pages and glittering lights, and finally accept what really matters: peaceful relations with Filipinos of all races, ideologies, preferences, dialects, religions, classes. Human relations, after all, is what makes us rank among the happiest countries in the world—not the obsession with image and appearance.

And so no matter how hopeless the situation seems, there are those who continue to work for an awakening in whatever field they connect to. Just as the United Nations Summit happens this month, aiming to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty by 2015, we do what we can, no matter how small, to change the way we see the country, in order to see our country change.

MAYBE the dream of change is stronger still, even if the voices of those who don't care are louder.

This month, Social Watch Philippines, one of the varied groups behind the Kahirapan Wakasan! (End Poverty Now) movement, will mobilize and launch a civil society report on the status of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), an eight-fold platform to eradicate poverty in The Philippines. Rock Ed Philippines, a volunteer group that aims to Rock Society through Education, continues to heed GCAP's (Global Call to Action Against Poverty) demand that world leaders Wake-Up to Poverty, and raise awareness for the MDGs among the country's youth. Rock Ed founder Gang Badoy aims to involve all Filipinos in the group's central campaign: No More Excuses, Philippines!

In the spirit of the GCAP's White Band Campaign, Candy Reyes and Yael Buencamino of ISHQ gathered the store's young designers together to create their own versions of GCAP's white bands. The white band is a simple, inexpensive way for people to show their support for, and participate in, the GCAP's urgent call to press the G8 leaders to help end poverty through just trade, debt cancellation and increase in the quality and quantity of aid. In the Philippines, we've added the issue of good governance.

The bands were created by Patty Eustaquio, Tippi Ocampo, Kate Torralba, Happy David, Ciara Marasigan, Joey Samson, James Reyes, Louis Claparols, Jon Herrera, Ferdi Abuel, Reian Mata and Mitzi Quilendrino. Angel Aquino agreed to wear them. Marie Calica did Aquino's hair and make-up. Isa Lorenzo photographed Aquino against Jose Enrique Soriano's haunting images of poverty. Both photographers are part of Silver Lens Photo.

This isn't the first time Silver Lens heeded the wake-up call to poverty. Pinky Urmaza's In Between series traveled to the Baliuag Rock Ed Socio-Civic Festival last month, while Soriano's show, Episodes: Still Photographs of an Unstill Mind, has reached students at the University of the Philippines, St. Scholastica College-Manila, and the College of St. Benilde. Episodes will continue its university tour in the provinces. Silver Lens also has some projects lined up for Kahirapan Wakasan! (End Poverty Now).

There is a lot one can do, in whatever field, to show support, to care, to act. Those who gripe that the present isn't as inspiring as the pre-Marcos days, might be proven wrong.

There is a lot one can do, in whatever field, to show support, to care, to act. Those who gripe that the present isn't as inspiring as the pre-Marcos days, might be proven wrong. Maybe there are even more people who contribute to our country's good today than there ever was, except that they hardly make the headlines. Maybe the dream of change is stronger still, even if the voices of those who don't care are louder. Maybe change is already happening in our cafés, galleries, theaters, in the art that we create, in the way we think, in the way we relate to others.

In a country that desperately needs vision and illumination, little changes like these could grow into a world-changing sense of purpose.

Last Sept. 14 to 16, 2005, the United Nations Summit, which Secretary-General Kofi Annan described as potentially "the largest gathering of world leaders ever," was held in New York to iron out the details of a landmark declaration, a plan of action to primarily eradicate extreme hunger and poverty by 2015.

The portraits within

Lilen Uy's exhibit celebrates the human heart as a measure of all things

By Tony Ty
Photos by Lilen Uy

WHEN PORTRAITS were done during the early Renaissance, artists used the sight-size method—the painting is set up alongside the subject so that they appear the same size when viewed together from the same distance. The technique was definitely not just a crude adaptation of measurement. In fact, it was performed because it conformed to the humanist idea at that time: Man is the measure of all things.

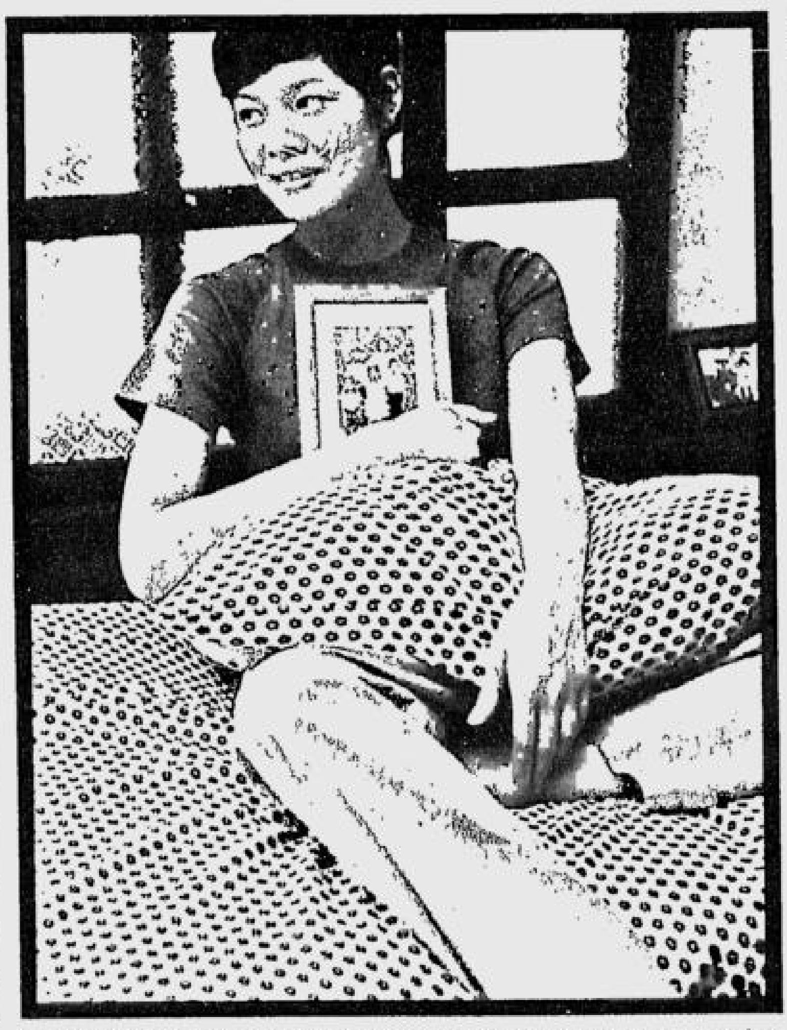
But we've all learned that this isn't true, that the real measure of all things is the human heart; its capacity to love, remember, choose, bear pain and heal. Photographer Lilen Uy explores this emotional metric system in her new show, aptly called Portraits, at the Silver Lens Gallery this month.

Lilen's Portraits are intimate photographs of people holding photographs they've chosen, whether of themselves or their loved ones. An elderly woman, for example, lovingly clutches a portrait of a son long gone. A young girl lies on the same bed, in the same pose, as the photograph of herself taken a few years back. Joan Bitagcol, who made the transition from catwalk to camera, has her own portrait within a portrait.

"MY WISH is that the show would allow the audience to view photographs differently."

"Photographs taken by one's parents and relatives are to me the sincerest portraits," Lilen said, explaining the rationale behind the show. "These are taken without any agenda but to preserve a moment for remembrance. Such domestic photographs are personal, yet expressive of a person and collectively, gives an impression of a personality and maybe a life."

And these are qualities Lilen manages to convey through her work, whether they're commercial print shoots; fashion editorials for magazines; or fine art exhibits such as Portraits. For her, it's all about the photograph.



JOAN Bitagcol, who made the transition from catwalk to camera, has her own portrait within a portrait.

"A photograph can be a potent document," she said, explaining why she placed people with their own photos. "An old photograph can also grow or expand its meaning as years pass. I thought that by having each subject select a significant photograph of his/her choice, the subject gets to define their own portrait. The old photograph expands its significance from the time it's chosen and re-photographed vis-á-vis the time it was taken. It also defines the present."

Putting the subjects and their photos together isn't just about the familiar concepts of Then & Now or Before & After. For Lilen, it is about finding something deeper, searching for connections.

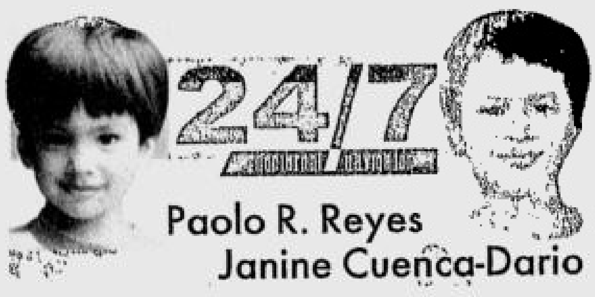
"My wish is that the show would allow the audience to view photographs differently," she said. "While the photographs may be personal, the moments that each subject holds up before the viewers are universal. I hope that viewers can connect to these moments and see themselves in these portraits as well."

Portraits, then, is a unique, fresh photography exhibit that connotes a sense of journey. It goes beyond the physical measure of man, but tries to reveal the depths, however subtly, of our emotional experience.

"Having met these people, the subjects, and knowing their stories brought me back to my own issues as well," Lilen said, who also added that the project took her out of her comfort zone. "The idea of reconnection and remembrance just made a lot of sense and that was my take off point for the show. The form took shape with the "ID" as inspiration. The simplicity brought to focus only the face of an individual."

Portraits is almost reflective of Lilen's own journey, something that she hopes the audience will respond to in order to define their own.

Portraits, photographs by Lilen Uy, runs from Sept. 21 to Oct. 21, 2005 at the Silver Lens Gallery. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 8160044.



Supah Supah Saturday!

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

WITH THE "BER" months underway, our calendars are bound to be filled to the brim following such a bleak post-summer slump. We can't wait for Kitchie Nadal's concert at the Cuneta Astrodome, the pre-holiday bazaars (like the Gourmet Food Bazaar at San Antonio Parish Hall, Forbes Park tomorrow) and upcoming performances of flamenco star Sara Baras and Canadian crooner Michael Bublé next month! The events of this weekend alone promise to re-ignite all your dulled senses, especially for those of you who may already have "been there, seen it, and done that," but who would—in the snap of a finger—be more than glad to do it again.

Tribute to Wolfgang @ 70s Bistro, 9 tonight

On the brink of international superstardom, rock band Wolfgang decided to take a breather. The rock scene hasn't been the same since. But for those unrepentant fans among you, tonight is the night to revisit the songs of "Semenelin," "Serve in Silence," and "Black Mantra." Karl Roy, Kevin Roy, and Jett Pangan will lead the "Tribute" pack at 70s Bistro [46 Anonas St., QC, phone: 434-3597].

Toast 2005: The Wine Festival, 11 a.m. today

Wine lovers of the world, take note: today is your chance to hobnob with five renown Australian wine makers. Rob Bowen of Houghton Wines, Kevin Mitchell of Kilikanoon Wines, Wayne Dutschke of Dutschke Wines, Tony Ingle of Angove's and Derek Hooper of Cape Jaffa Wines will be on hand to pour their own wines during the wine and food tasting sessions at this first-of-its-kind festival. There are 100 wines to be tasted! Check this out at the Rockwell Tent from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 817-1166 or 893-3165.

Lounge After Sunset feat. DJ Ben Mono, 9 tonight

Germany has blessed us with many things: BMW, Bavarian beer, Oktoberfest, and DJ Ben Mono of Munich. After spinning his bithop beats at Boracay and Embassy, DJ Ben (a.k.a. Paul Beiler) brings his Blade Runner-esque melodies to the BMW Autohaus [184 E.Rodriguez Ave., Libis, Quezon City, phone: 638-0734] for another "Lounge After Sunset" — a party-cum-Puma fashion show that is sure to burn the carpets! Door charge at P250, inclusive of one drink.

Rex Navarrete: Badass Madapaka, Sept. 23

He's baaack! If you're starting to crave for the jocular jabs and tragicomic tales of Fil-Am stand-up comedian Rex Navarrette, head over to the SM Megamall Cinema 3 on Friday for "Badass Madapaka." There's nothing like a little laughing gas to spice up a staid evening. Tickets at P515. Call 891-9999.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Sept. 17, Saturday

Cambio, Twisted Halo, Happy Meals, & Sugarfree at Saguijo; Footloose at Meralco Theater; Supermodel Saturdays at Embassy Club; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Cocoy Puyat & Travis Monsod at Bed; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur

Sept. 18, Sunday

R'meo Luvs Dew-Lhiett at CCP Studio Theater; South Border at Gateway Mall

Sept. 19, Monday

Side A at Calesa Bar; Color It Red at 70s Bistro, Soul Seduction with Kate Torralba & DJ Patch at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati

Sept. 20, Tuesday

Sound at 70s Bistro; Bloomfields at Dish, Mayonnaise, Dianna Rising, Comet's Tale, & Hiraya at Saguijo; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt

Sept. 21, Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; Portraits by Lilen Uy at Silver Lens Gallery; Signal to Noise, Severo, Mayonnaise, Salamin, Tie-dye Shift & Rinka at Saguijo; Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; Bellini Night with Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine

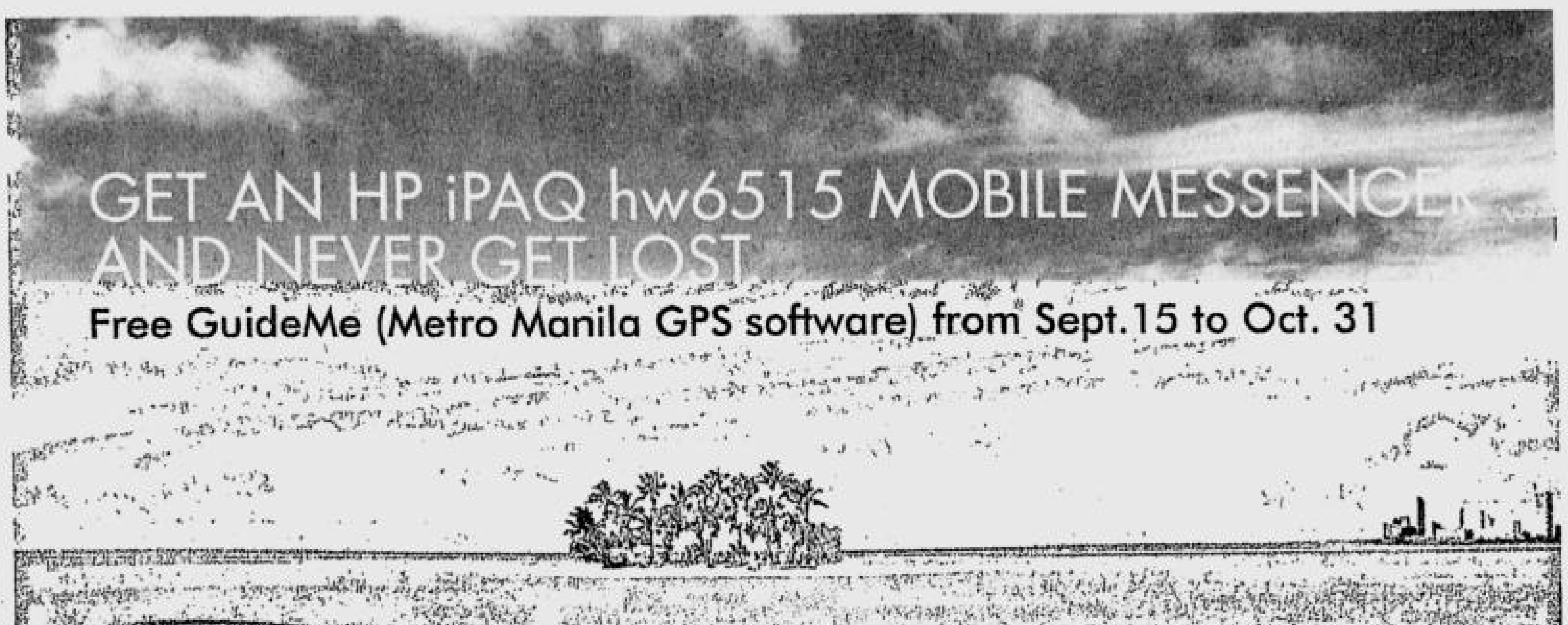
Sept. 22, Thursday

CouchLab DJs with Jun Lopito at Manila DJ Club; Cocoy Puyat & Travis Monsod at Bed; Noel Cabangon at 70s Bistro; South Border at 19 East; Kearney Street at Suburbia; Dawn Bande at Inihaw Republic, Katipunan; Sitti Navarro at Calesa Bar

Sept. 23, Friday

Rex Navarette: Badass Madapaka at SM Megamall Cinema 3; HouseSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; MyHOUSE with Elan Habayeb at M Café; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; La Baila with Calypso DJs at Maestro Lounge; Footloose at Meralco Theater; Superfly DJs at Nuvo; Monsterbot, Ciudad, Too Late the Hero, Dayuhan, Typecast, & Concrete Sam at Saguijo; Urban Myx at Phi Metrowalk; Musik at Embassy Club; Steve Mills at V Bar; Damon of Melbourne at Wasabi; Friday Night Flava at Dish; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Twisted Pair at Suburbia; Pure Instinct at Ratsky's Morato; Pure Instinct at Ratsky's Morato; Rhythm and Babes and Margarita at Calesa Bar

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.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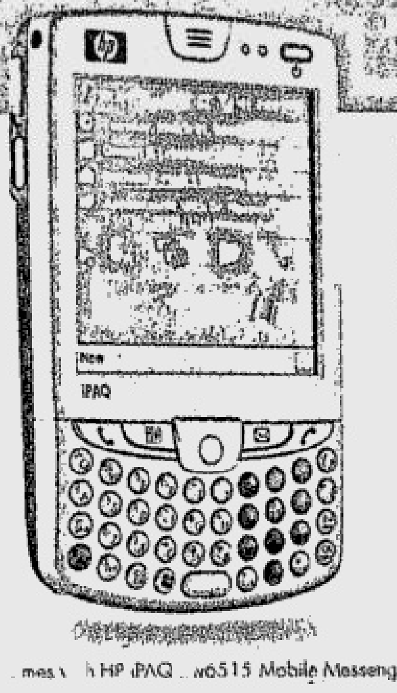

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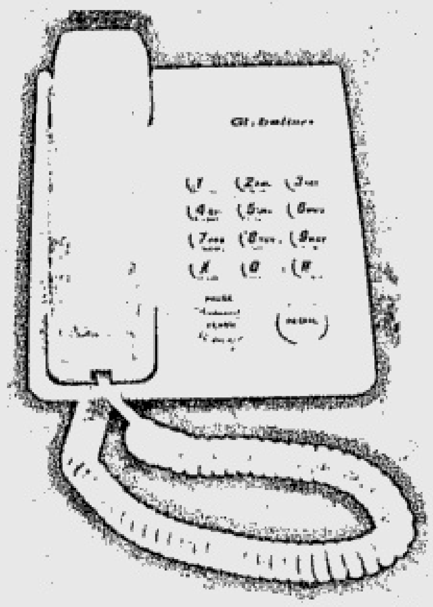

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Battle of the A-list

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

YOU THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER see them together. But Super!'s got powers even the Big Two don't have—one is the power to Mature-And-Stop-The-Network-Wars, the other is to get Anne Curtis and Angel Locsin together (and hold hands).

But because we're hardcore journalists here at Super!, we thought it best to inform you about both girls through this new and complicated journalistic comparative device called... a table.

Anne Curtis	
was named after her Auntie Anne	her real name is Angelica Colmenares; her siblings are named Angela and Angelo
brought up without a *yaya*—knows how to wash dishes, clean and iron clothes; makes coffee for her dad	makes good brownies and muffins; her specialty is "buttered beef"
her mommy used to spank her when she refused to eat	the worst thing her mom made her do was wear a polka dot dress
was discovered while eating in Jollibee	was discovered while grocery shopping
played a princess in "Magic Kingdom," played the devil's daughter in "Ika-13 Kapitulo"	appeared in only one scene in her first movie, "Mano Po 2"
likes Aga Muhlach and Richard Gomez (has a daddy complex)	the eyes and thick eyebrows turn her on
digs 2 a.m. Wendy's takeouts	digs 2 a.m. chips and squid balls chow
thinks her mestiza features are her star qualities	short-term goal: no husband, no babies, no drugs, no jail time
would never go bare	chosen by FHM as sexiest gal
dated Richard Gutierrez and Oyo Boy Sotto	linked to Richard Gutierrez and dated Oyo Boy Sotto
endorses PM (Petit Monde) and Head & Shoulders	endorses PM (Petit Monde) and Head & Shoulders

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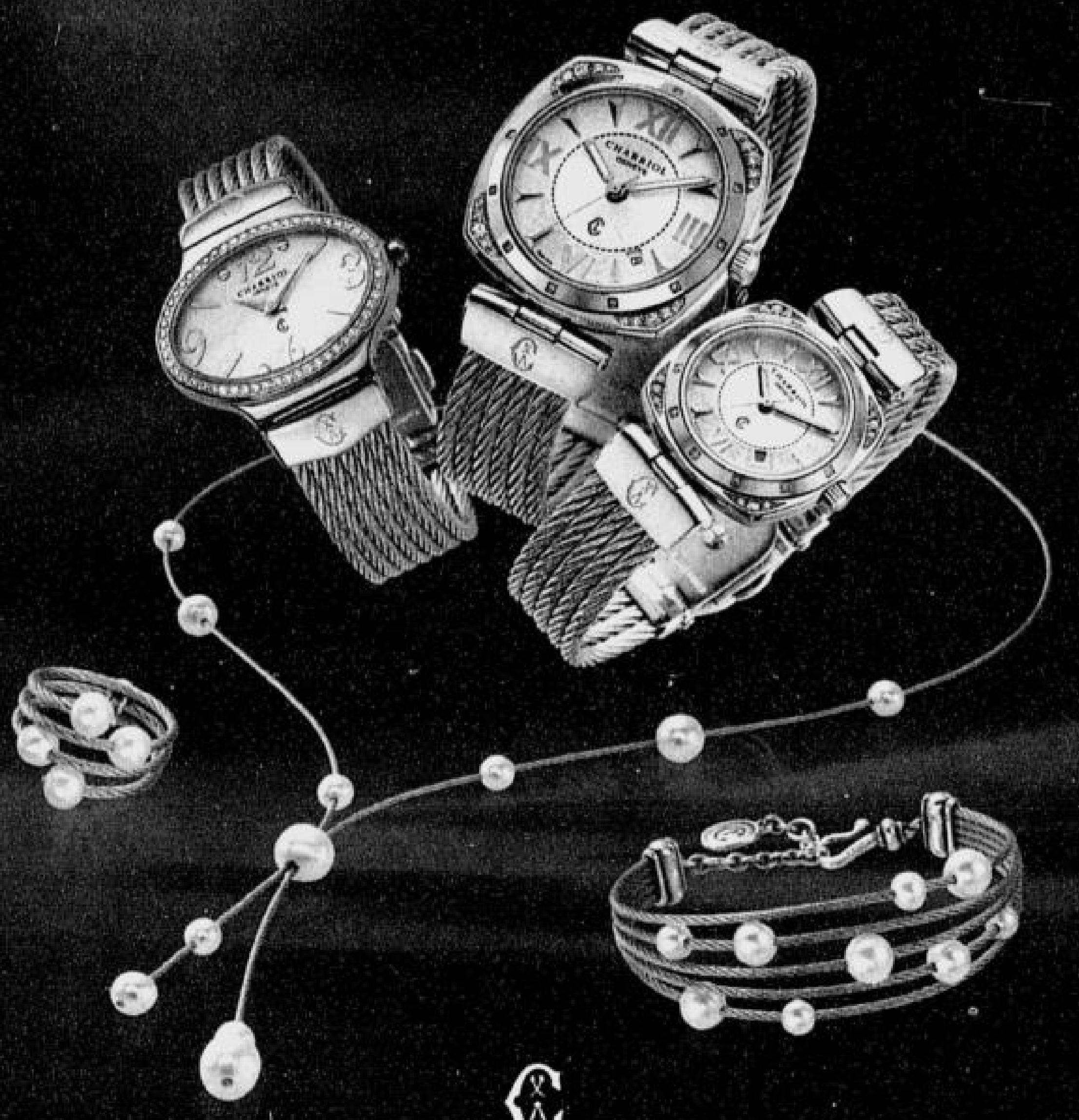

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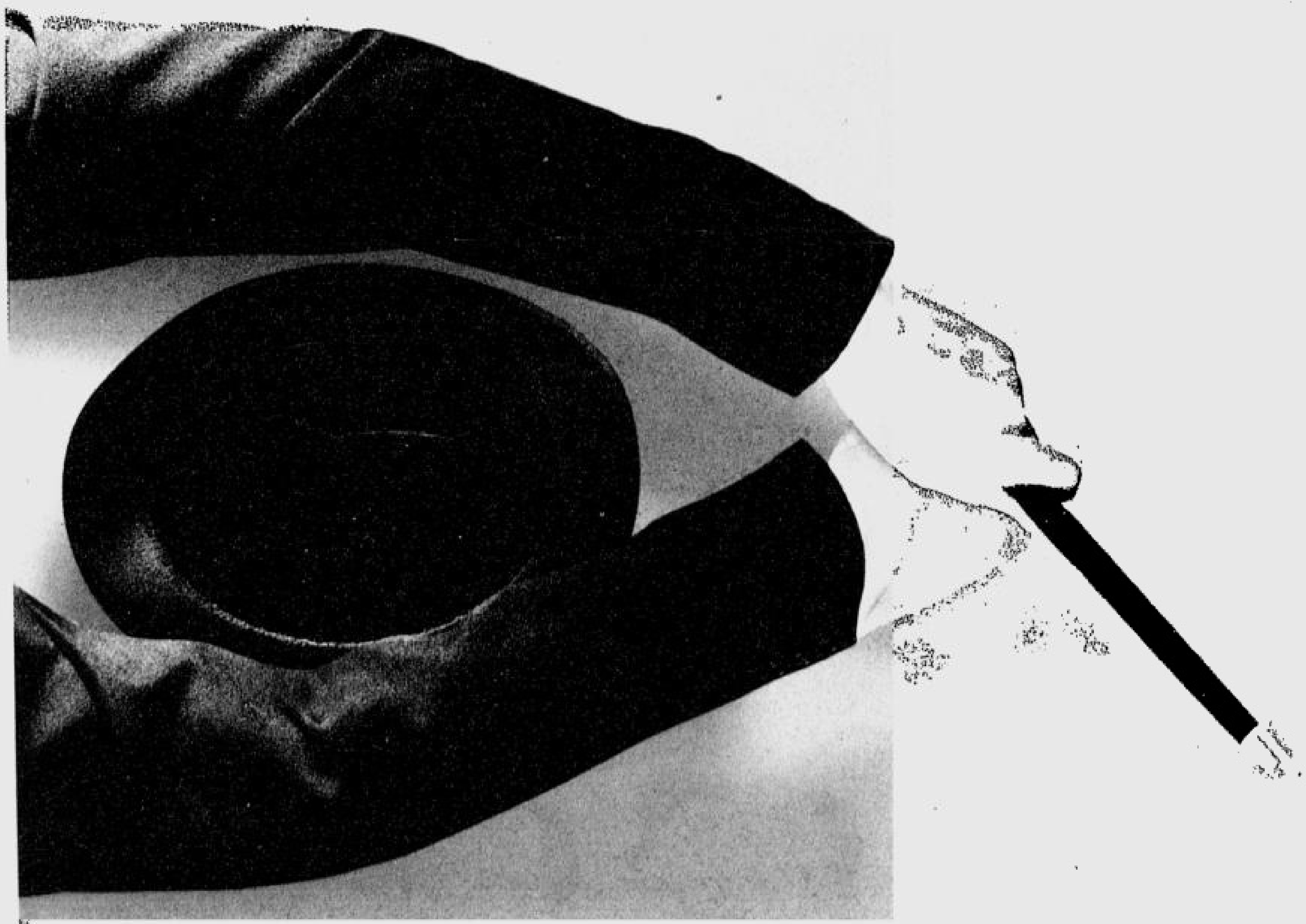

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ACTIVITY CENTER
September 9 - 11 am, 3 pm and 6 pm
September 10 - 11 am, 3 pm and 6 pm
September 11 - 11 am, 3 pm and 6 pm
Customer Service Hotline: 842-2782/ 772-1860

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA
GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER
September 27 - 11:30 am, 5 pm and 7 pm
September 28 - 11:30 am, 5 pm and 7 pm
September 29 - 11:30 am, 5 pm and 7 pm
Customer Service Hotline: 752-7272

You can also catch him at Market! Market! Activity Center on September 15 and 16 at 6 pm.

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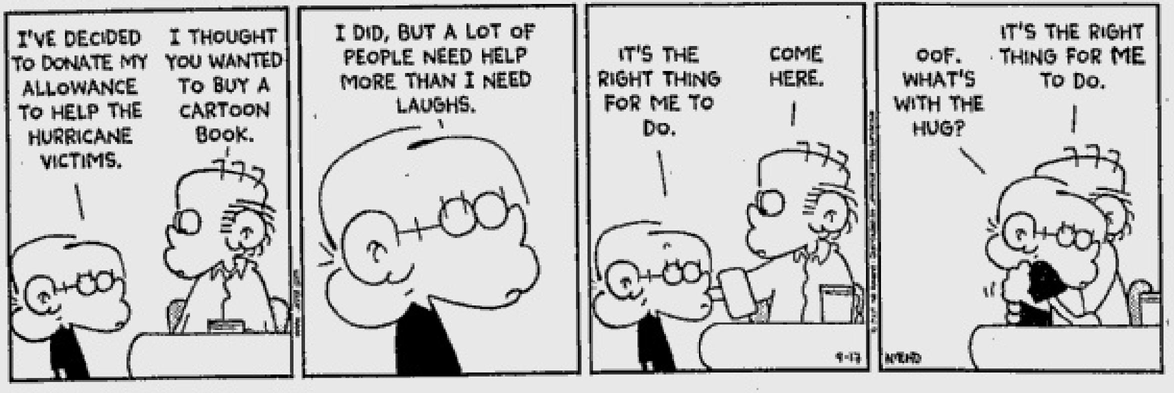
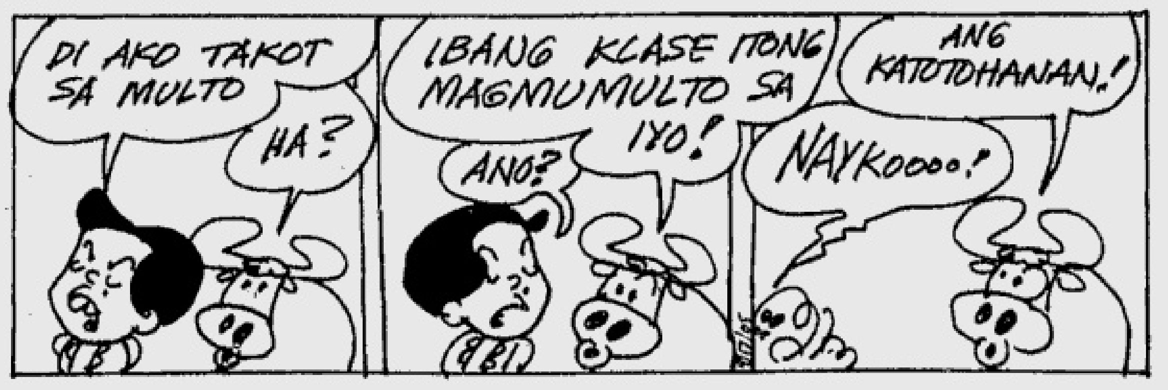
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

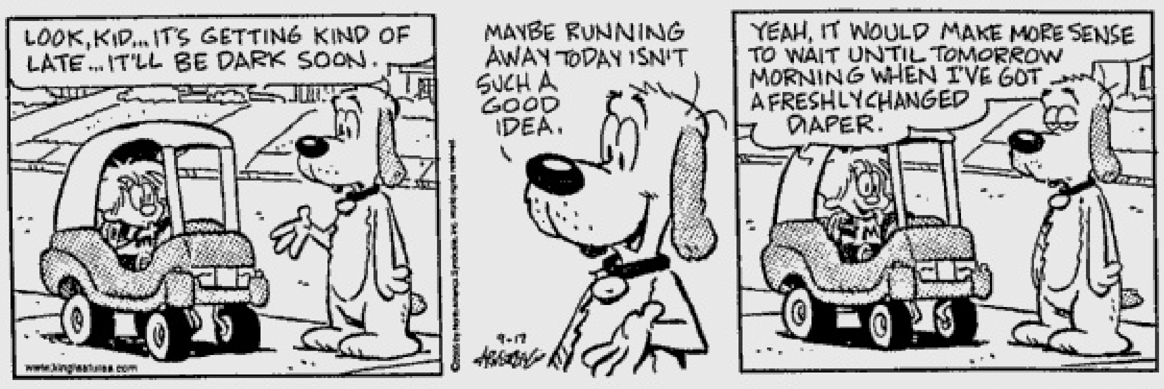
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I'VE DECIDED TO DONATE MY ALLOWANCE TO HELP THE HURRICANE VICTIMS.
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BUY A CARTOON BOOK.
I DID, BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE NEED HELP MORE THAN I NEED LAUGHS.
IT'S THE RIGHT THING FOR ME TO DO.
COME HERE.
OOF. WHAT'S WITH THE HUG?
IT'S THE RIGHT THING FOR ME TO DO.
9-17

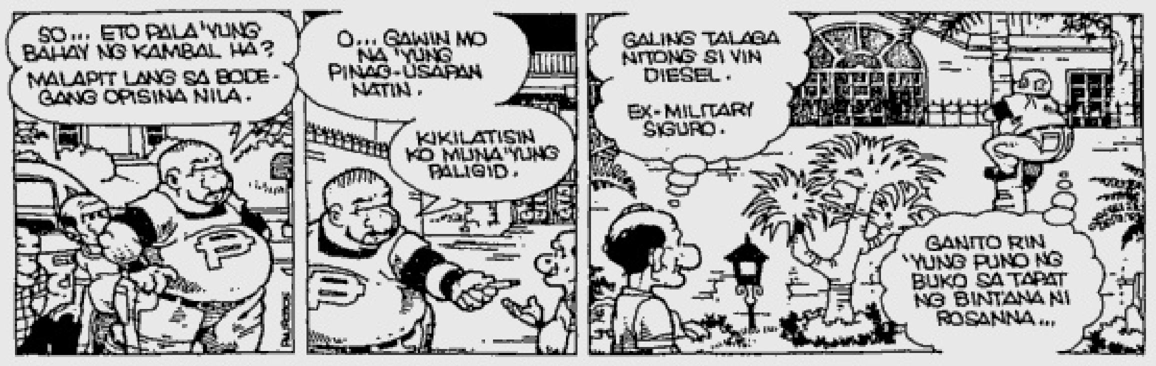
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


DI AKO TAKOT SA MULTO
HA?
IBANG KLASE ITONG MAGMUMULTO SA IYO!
ANO?
ANG KATOTOHANAN!
NAYKoooo!

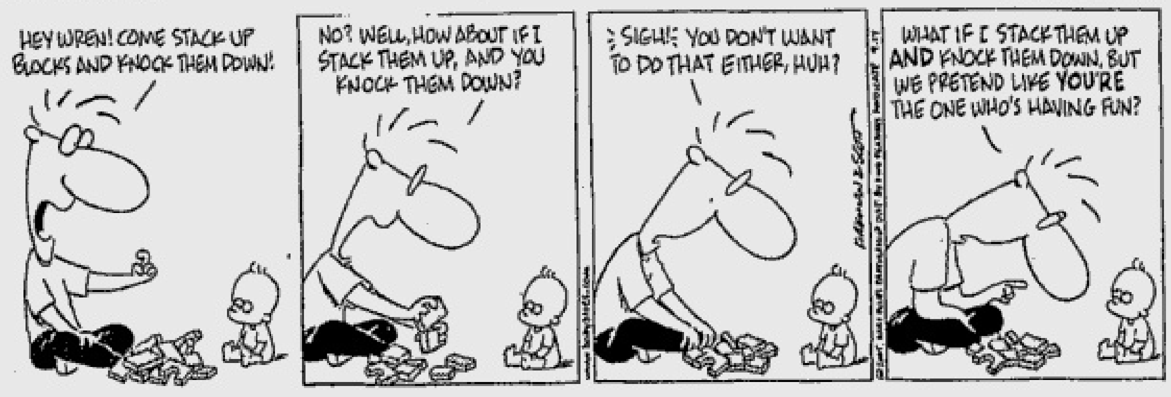
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


LOOK, KID... IT'S GETTING KIND OF LATE... IT'LL BE DARK SOON.
MAYBE RUNNING AWAY TODAY ISN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA.
YEAH, IT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING WHEN I'VE GOT A FRESHLY CHANGED DIAPER.
9-17
www.kingfeatures.com

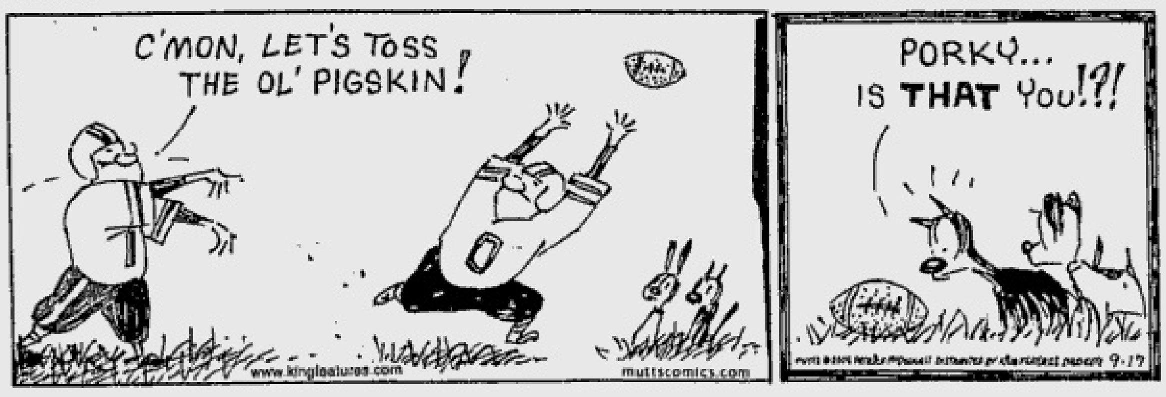
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SO... ETO PALA 'YUNG BAHAY NG KAMBAL HA?
MALAPIT LANG SA BODEGANG OPISINA NILA.
O... GAWIN MO NA 'YUNG PINAG-USAPAN NATIN.
KIKILATISIN KO MUNA 'YUNG PALIGID.
GALING TALAGA NITONG SI VIN DIESEL.
EX-MILITARY SIGURO.
GANITO RIN 'YUNG PUNO NG BUKO SA TAPAT NG BINTANA NI ROSANNA...

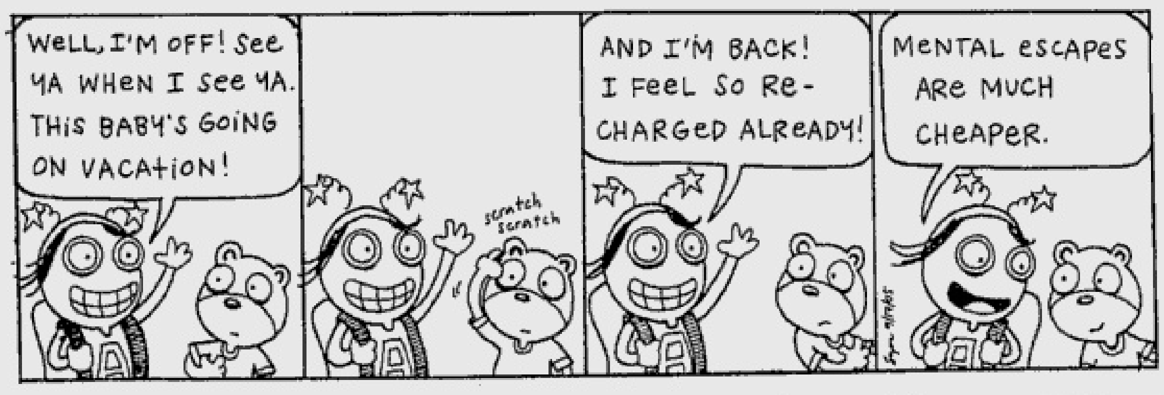
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HEY WREN! COME STACK UP BLOCKS AND KNOCK THEM DOWN!
NO? WELL, HOW ABOUT IF I STACK THEM UP, AND YOU KNOCK THEM DOWN?
SIGH! YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT EITHER, HUH?
WHAT IF I STACK THEM UP AND KNOCK THEM DOWN, BUT WE PRETEND LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S HAVING FUN?

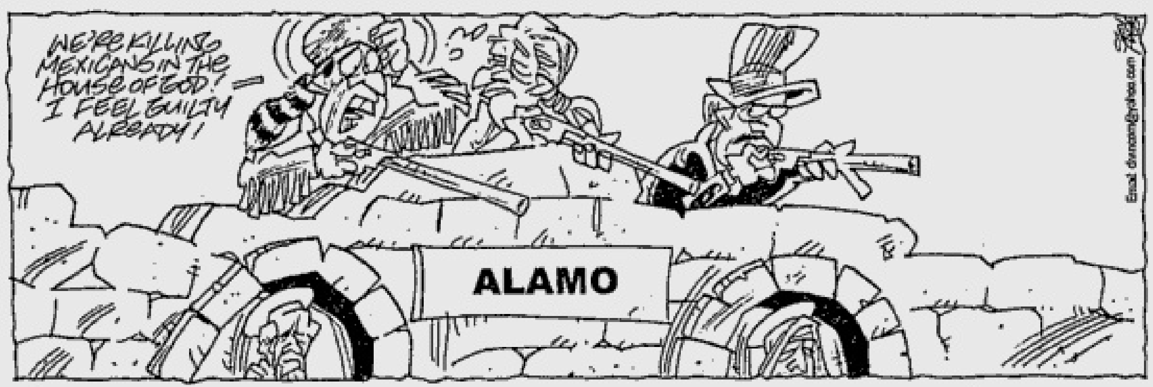
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


C'MON, LET'S TOSS THE OL' PIGSKIN!
PORKY... IS THAT YOU!?!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
9-17

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, I'M OFF! SEE YA WHEN I SEE YA. THIS BABY'S GOING ON VACATION!
scratch scratch
AND I'M BACK! I FEEL SO RE-CHARGED ALREADY!
MENTAL ESCAPES ARE MUCH CHEAPER.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WE'RE KILLING MEXICANS IN THE HOUSE OF GOD! I FEEL GUILTY ALREADY!
ALAMO

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Without question, you are tenacious and determined. You are not a quitter. Once you decide to go after something, you're relentless. You have a wonderful, dry sense of humor. Those close to you know your whimsical side. The year ahead is social, fun-loving and one that promotes partnerships.
Birthdate of: John Ritter, actor; Hank Williams, singer; Anne Bancroft, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an unusually powerful Full Moon day. Basically, you have a marvelous opportunity to improve your closest partnerships and relationships. What are you going to do about it?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the year for your job to improve in a big way. Today is one of those special times when you can turn things around to make them the way you want to be.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have an opportunity to steer romantic relationships, vacation plans and artistic and creative ventures in a completely new direction. Think big. Make changes for the better.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This year your home life and your entire domestic and family scene will improve. Today you see definite possibilities of how this can happen. Make sure you benefit others as well as yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your communication skills are fabulous today. You have the power to influence others. In particular, you have the power to influence young minds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Trust your moneymaking instincts today. It's entirely possible to boost your income or enter a new realm of making money. Think of ways to improve society as well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today is the Full Moon, and Jupiter makes an aspect to Pluto. (This is big stuff.) Whatever you set in motion today can improve all your relationships and your image in the world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Whenever Pluto is in the picture, whatever you initiate has to benefit others as well as yourself, or your own benefit disappears. How can you help others as well as yourself?

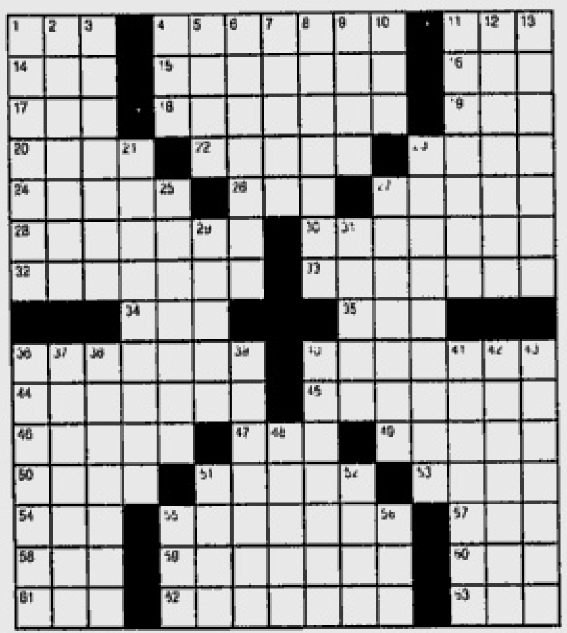
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Friends, groups and organizations can become a meaningful part of your life in some way today. Listen to their input, especially regarding difficulties with authority figures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can transform your public reputation and your life direction at this time in your life. You will get the respect you deserve and want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Travel plans and matters connected with publishing and the media are very exciting. Work-related travel is also possible. Legal matters can be settled favorably.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): What a powerful Full Moon in your sign! Partners can benefit you now. In fact, the wealth and resources of others will help you transform something for the better.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ed Volle
Gillette, WY

9/17/05

ACROSS
1 Poorly lit
4 "Portrait of Gertrude Stein" painter
11 Morse symbol
14 Yada, yada, yada
15 Streaking
16 "Xanadu" grp.
17 Sack
18 Subjugate
19 They: Fr.
20 Woeful lament
22 Flaky, layered rock
23 Glaswegian
24 Municipal
26 ISS partner
27 Ingenuous
28 Disabled
30 Harlow and Monroe, e.g.
32 Groups of nine
33 Transmitters
34 Theater sign letters
35 Be a thespian
36 Fridge raiders
40 In proportion
44 Sea west of the Kuril Islands
45 Prisoners
46 Opinions
47 Peke's bark
49 Dog-tired
50 Balin and Claire
51 Chucked
53 Duel reminder
54 Ford or Dodge
55 Of a hypothetical surface of the Earth
57 DH's stat
58 Wool producer
59 Like winds and rivers
60 Past prime
61 Downcast
62 Compared (to)
63 Like a little Scot

DOWN
1 Ludicrous failure
2 Venetian or Florentine
3 "Riverboat" star Darren
4 "The Raven" poet
5 Travel lodges
6 Kidney-shaped nuts
7 Ayn Rand's "__ Shrugged"
8 Underwater science facilities
9 Rescue
10 Unrefined mineral
11 Killing of a god
12 Ubiquitous
13 Seating supervisor
21 Circus adjuncts
23 Fairway hazards
25 Dry red wines
27 Serges, e.g.
29 Fragrances
31 Get into one's head
36 Rookies
37 Japanese island
38 Did some wool gathering?
39 Workhorse copter
40 Like elevator music
41 Accepted a humiliating defeat
42 Rationally defensible
43 Mounted upon
48 Get out of bed
51 Actress Garr
52 Surfer's ride
55 Salon goo
56 Digital display letters

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	W	■	A	B	O	M	B	S	■	D	A	M	P
O	N	E	■	N	O	N	C	O	M	■	A	G	U	A
U	Z	I	■	B	O	U	Q	U	E	T	T	O	S	S
L	A	G	G	E	R	S	■	G	A	R	A	G	E	S
S	C	H	U	S	S	■	S	H	R	U	B	■	■	■
■	■	T	S	O	■	I	E	T	■	C	A	P	E	K
D	S	L	■	L	I	S	A	■	D	E	S	O	T	O
R	O	O	M	■	T	E	M	P	O	■	E	R	N	O
A	S	S	O	R	T	■	O	O	Z	E	■	T	A	P
B	O	S	C	O	■	E	S	P	■	N	N	E	■	■
■	■	■	C	U	R	D	S	■	P	L	U	R	A	L
A	T	L	A	S	E	S	■	G	O	I	N	G	T	O
W	H	O	S	T	H	E	B	O	S	S	■	O	A	F
L	A	N	I	■	A	L	M	O	S	T	■	S	R	A
S	I	G	N	■	B	S	I	D	E	S	■	S	I	T

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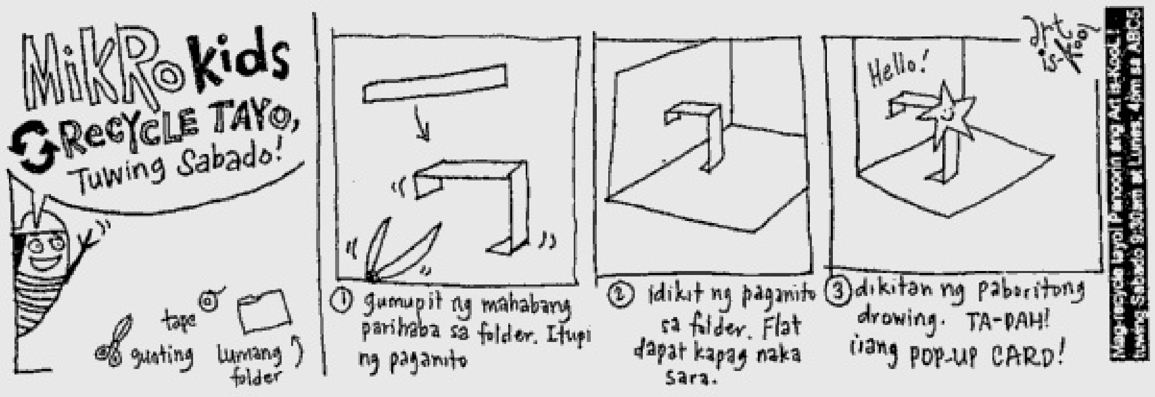
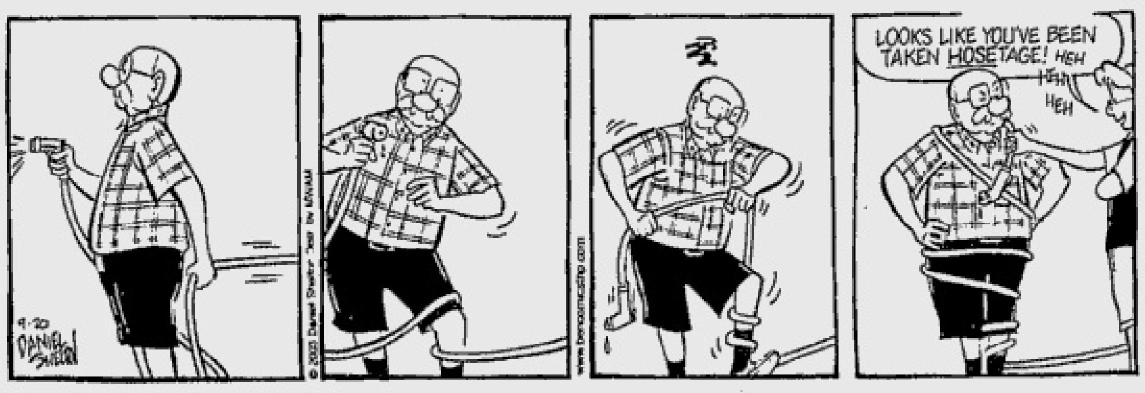
9/17/05

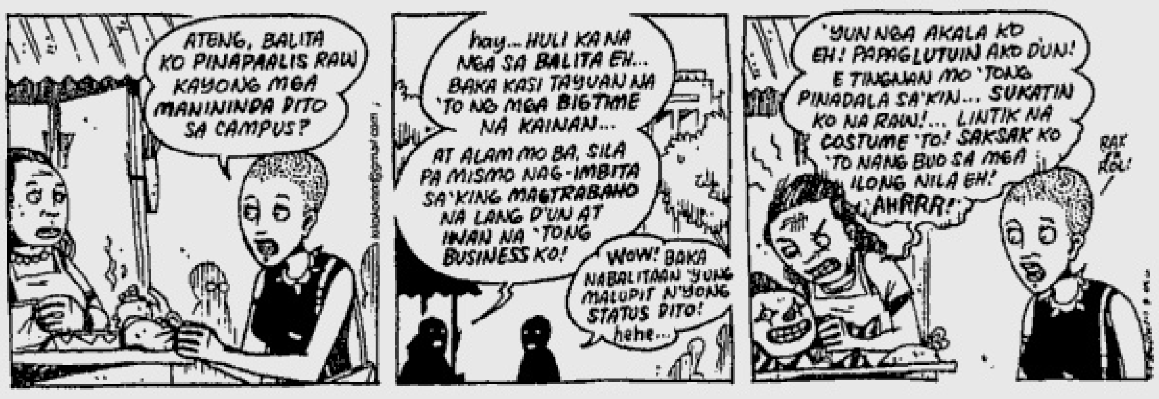
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids
ReCYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
tape
gunting
lumang folder
Hello!
① gumupit ng mahabang parihaba sa folder. Itupi ng paganito
② idikit ng paganito sa folder. Flat dapat kapag naka sara.
③ dikitan ng paboritong drowing. TA-DAH! isang POP-UP CARD!
Art is-Kool

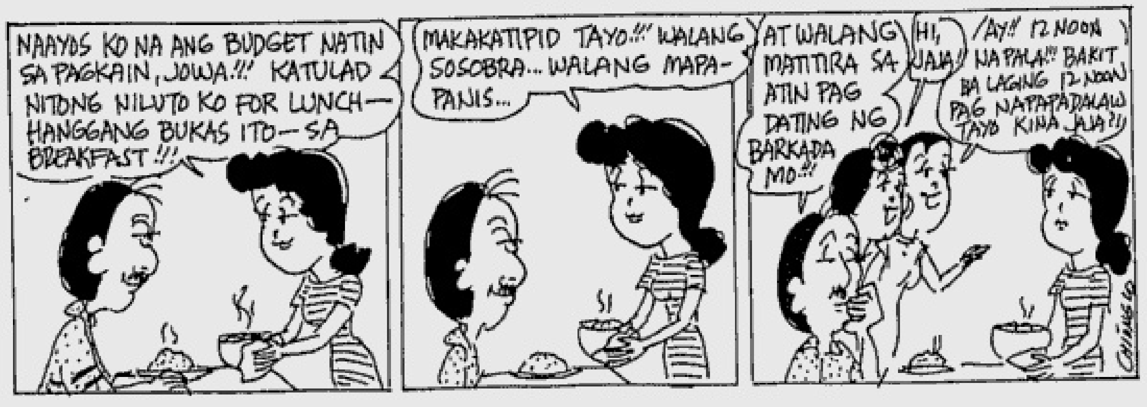
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN HOSETAGE! HEH HEH HEH
9-20
www.bencomicstrip.com

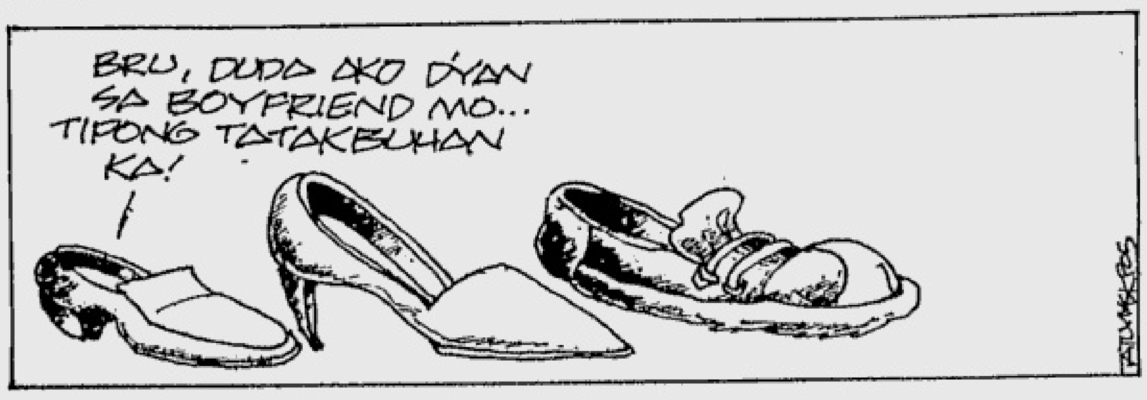
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ATENG, BALITA KO PINAPAALIS RAW KAYONG MGA MANININDA DITO SA CAMPUS?
hay... HULI KA NA NGA SA BALITA EH... BAKA KASI TAYUAN NA 'TO NG MGA BIGTIME NA KAINAN...
AT ALAM MO BA, SILA PA MISMO NAG-IMBITA SA'KING MAGTRABAHO NA LANG D'UN AT IWAN NA 'TONG BUSINESS KO!
WOW! BAKA NABALITAAN 'YUNG MALUPIT N'YONG STATUS DITO! hehe...
'YUN NGA AKALA KO EH! PAPAGLUTUIN AKO D'UN! E TINGNAN MO 'TONG PINADALA SA'KIN... SUKATIN KO NA RAW!... LINTIK NA COSTUME 'TO! SAKSAK KO 'TO NANG BUO SA MGA ILONG NILA EH! AHRRR!
RAK EN ROL!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAAYOS KO NA ANG BUDGET NATIN SA PAGKAIN, JOWA!!! KATULAD NITONG NILUTO KO FOR LUNCH— HANGGANG BUKAS ITO—SA BREAKFAST!!!
MAKAKATIPID TAYO!!! WALANG SOSOBRA... WALANG MAPAPANIS...
AT WALANG MATITIRA SA ATIN PAG DATING NG BARKADA MO!!!
HI, JAJA!!
AY!! 12 NOON NA PALA!! BAKIT BA LAGING 12 NOON PAG NAPAPADALAW TAYO KINA JAJA?!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BRU, DUDA AKO D'YAN SA BOYFRIEND MO... TIPONG TATAKBUHAN KA!

Look beyond the stars

Super Angel! Super Anne! Super Angel! Super Anne! Super Angel! Super Anne! Super Angel!

IN A WORLD OF handlers and managers and happy entertainment writers, Angel and Anne are just virgin fuel sources for *chika* and celebrity bacon bits.

When you see Angel and Anne, you see showbiz—and showbiz isn't really appealing. It's like, Filipino showbiz can be the WWE, but instead it's chosen to be TNA Wrestling—which, umm, sucks like the B shows they have on RJTV. No offense.

The thing is, if entertainment was handled differently—like with more professionalism, class, and less-whoring—then Angel and Anne would come across to us as *more* than just prawns of the Giant Network Wars.

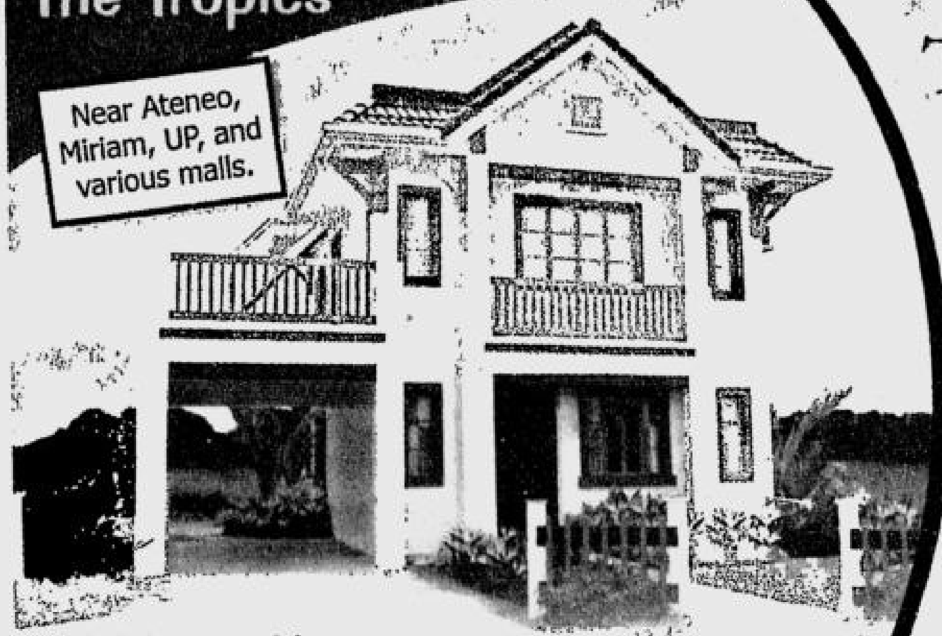
We've met them—they're definitely more than that… they're *mature* prawns.

Angel, for example, has fought to keep her public self true to who she really is. Anne is one of the very few celebs in this country who are not afraid to hide their opinions no matter what they are.

The point is, and we all see that, Angel and Anne are on top of their game—and that means something. They have talent.

Now imagine if all of of those talentless peeps stop leaching on them..

Discover new beginnings here at The Tropics



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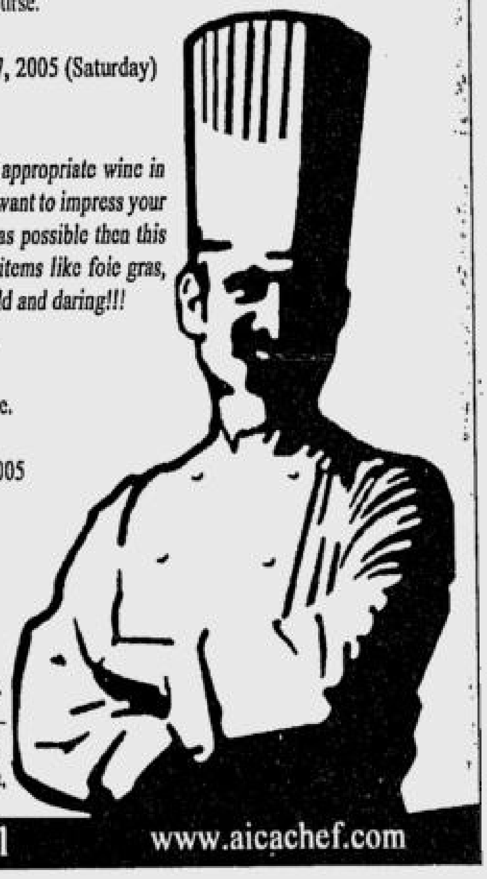
This is exclusively available to only 14 students for each batch.
Applicants are urged to register immediately.
Deadline for registration is at 12 noon on September 24, 2005 (Saturday)

Certificate in the Fundamentals of Professional Cooking

The regular 1-month schedule begins on September 20 and concludes on October 14, 2005.
This is exclusively available to only 10 students for each course.
Applicants are urged to register immediately.
Deadline for registration is at 12 noon on September 17, 2005 (Saturday)

Fine Food & Wine Pairing (evening schedule)

Cook 5-star restaurant quality food and match it with the appropriate wine in the country's most hip and modern culinary school. If you want to impress your dinner guests and use some culinary jargon as efficiently as possible then this course is for you. Learn to handle and match wine with items like foie gras, figs, lamb, truffles, duck …the works. A course for the bold and daring!!!
Course begins on September 27 and ends on October 6, 2005.
Schedule is 6pm-9pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays for 2 weeks
This is exclusively available to only 10 students for each course.
Applicants are urged to register immediately.
Deadline for registration is at 12 noon on September 17, 2005



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CHOCOLATE
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Discover its moist chocolate cake goodness oozing with rich chocolate and vanilla cream. Enjoy its softness and sweetness that only great chocolate cake has. Every bite is simply bursting with chocolatey delight!

It's great to have it in school or at home. Snack on it for recess or merienda at home while watching TV or with the barkada. You'll just love to have it everyday, anytime, anywhere you want.

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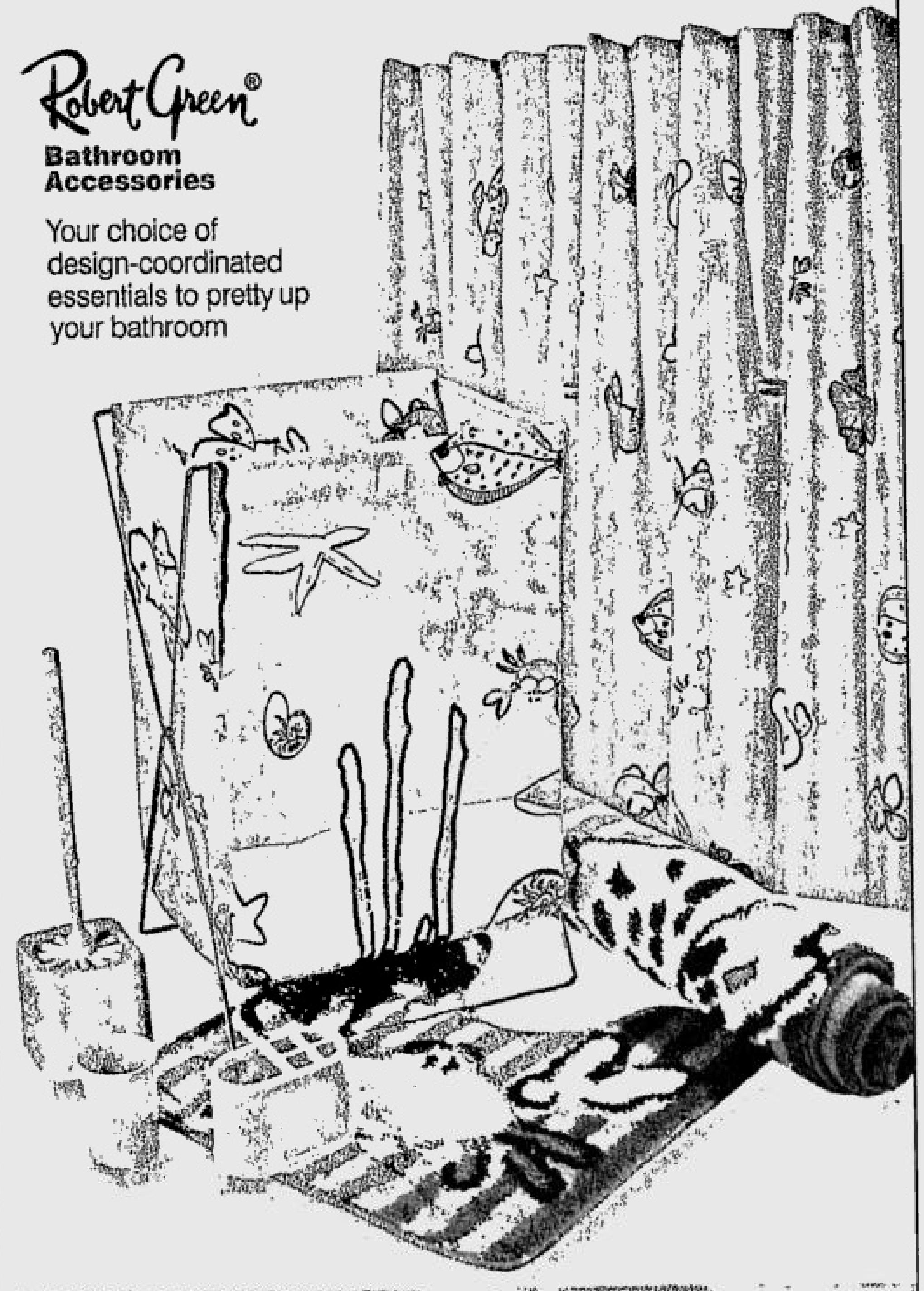

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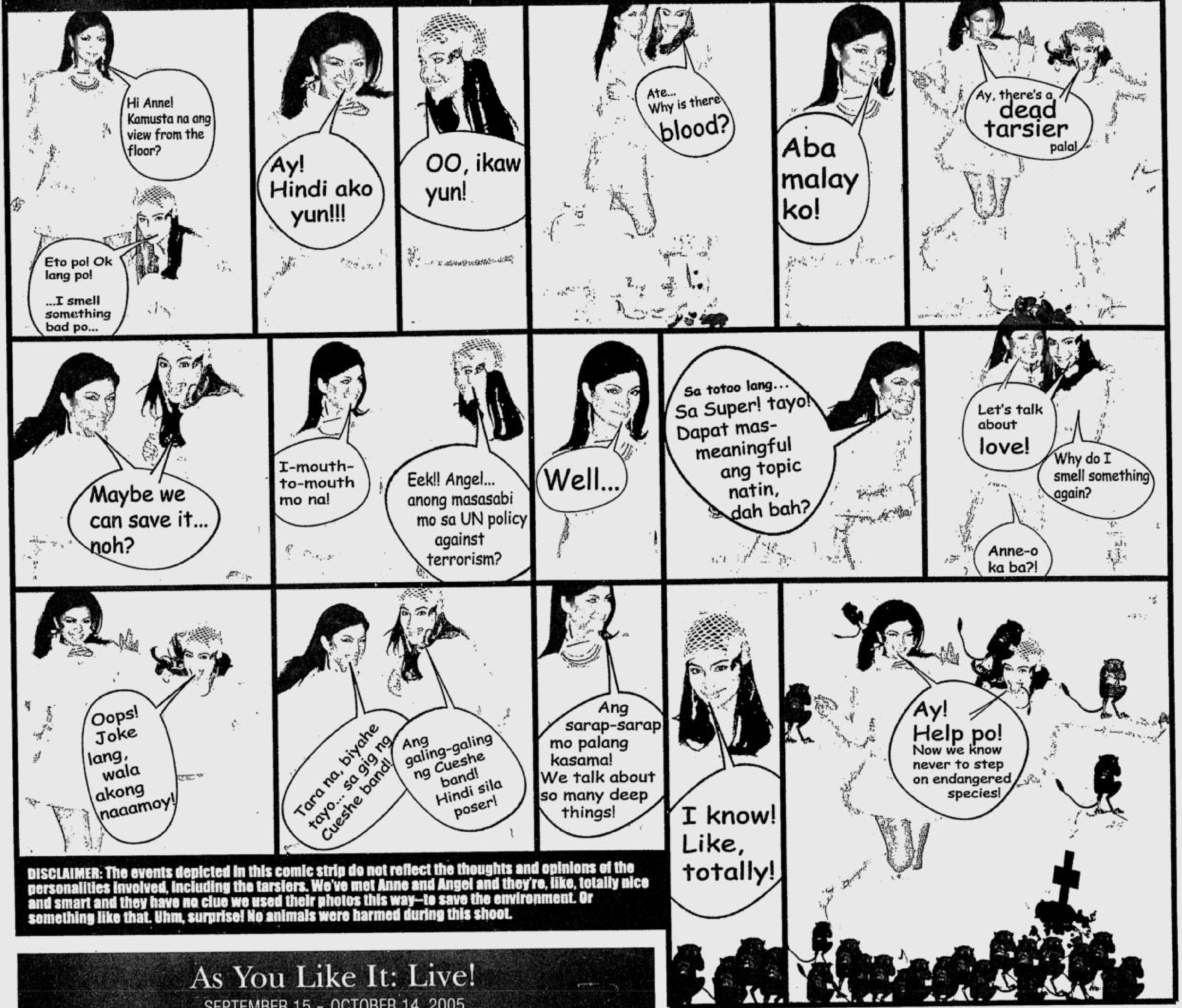
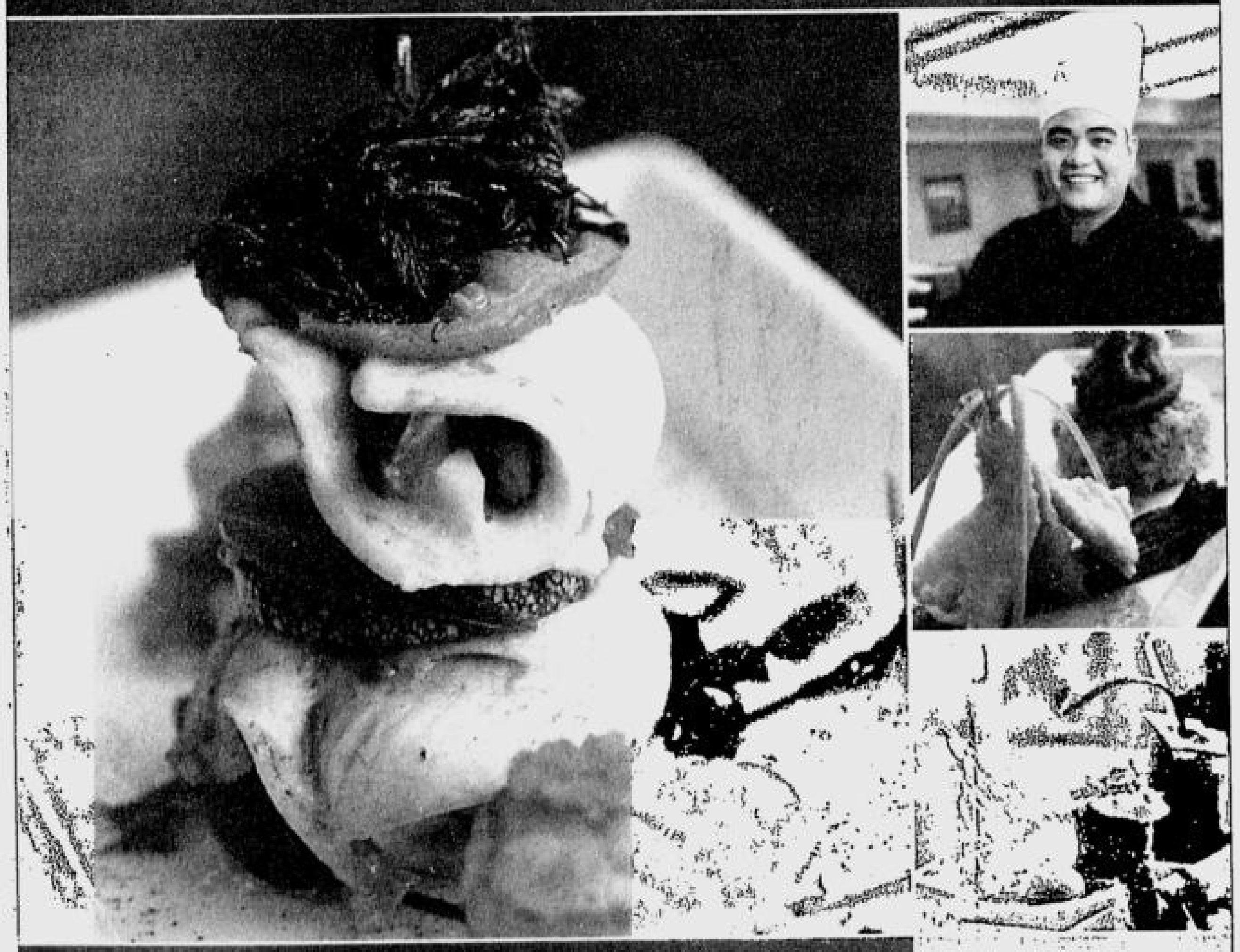
Super! Komiks Anne, Angel, and wildlife conservation

By Pepe Diokno and James Gabrillo
Photos by Raymund Isaac for PM (Petit Monde)
Digital editing by pepster.tk


Hi Anne! Kamusta na ang view from the floor?
Eto po! Ok lang po! ...I smell something bad po...
Ay! Hindi ako yun!!!
OO, ikaw yun!
Ate... Why is there blood?
Aba malay ko!
Ay, there's a dead tarsier pala!
Maybe we can save it... noh?
I-mouth-to-mouth mo na!
Eek!! Angel... anong masasabi mo sa UN policy against terrorism?
Well...
Sa totoo lang... Sa Super! tayo! Dapat mas-meaningful ang topic natin, dah bah?
Let's talk about love!
Why do I smell something again?
Anne-o ka ba?!
Oops! Joke lang, wala akong naaamoy!
Tara na, biyahe tayo... sa gig ng Cueshe band!
Ang galing-galing ng Cueshe band! Hindi sila poser!
Ang sarap-sarap mo palang kasama! We talk about so many deep things!
I know! Like, totally!
Ay! Help po! Now we know never to step on endangered species!

DISCLAIMER: The events depicted in this comic strip do not reflect the thoughts and opinions of the personalities involved, including the tarsiers. We've met Anne and Angel and they're, like, totally nice and smart and they have no clue we used their photos this way—to save the environment. Or something like that. Uhm, surprise! No animals were harmed during this shoot.


As You Like It: Live!
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 14, 2005

Describe your craving to Sous Chef Marco Legasto and he'll create it for you – live and à la minute at his cooking station with your choice from an array of meats, seafood, spices and sauces.

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Café Plaza Too is located at the Plaza Level with a beautiful view of the Manila Bay and lush greenery. It is a perfect place to meet and dine with family, friends and associates.

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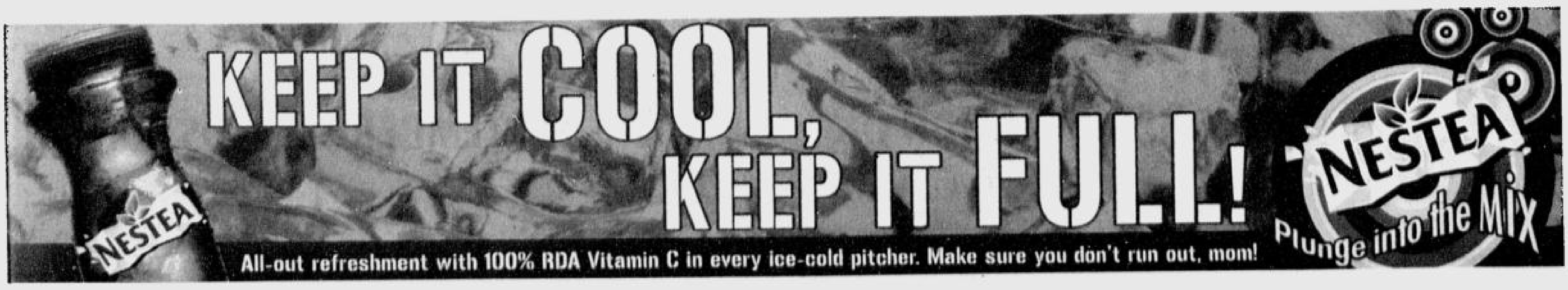
KEEP IT COOL,
KEEP IT FULL!
NESTEA
NESTEA
Plunge into the MIX

All-out refreshment with 100% RDA Vitamin C in every ice-cold pitcher. Make sure you don't run out, mom!